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– Denise, Kloof



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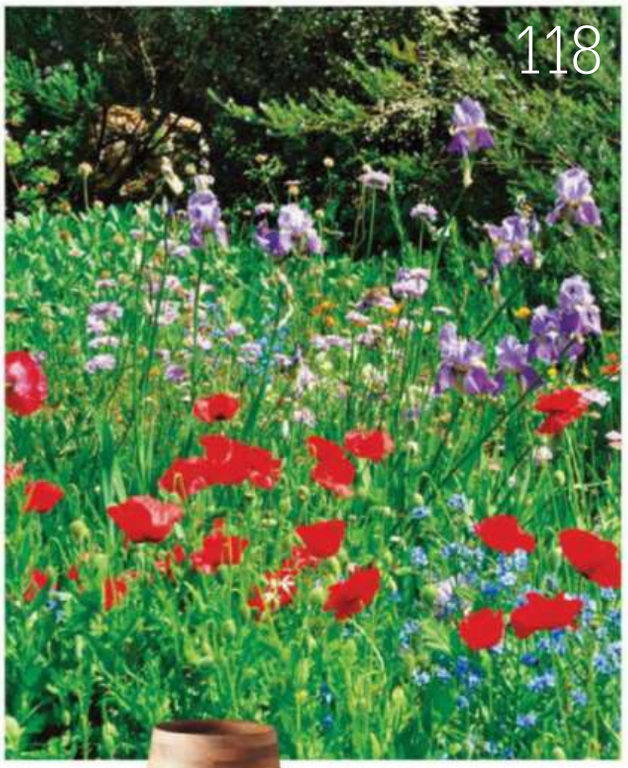
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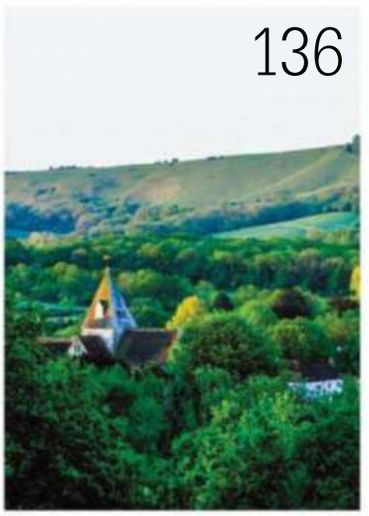
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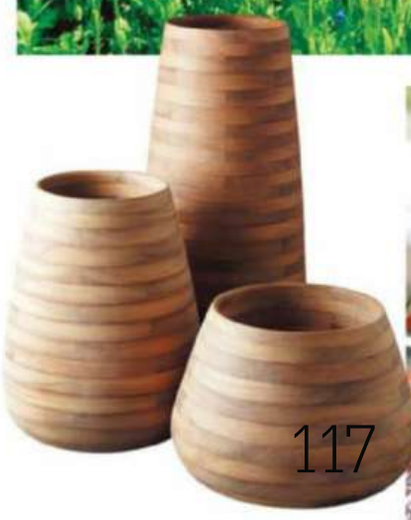
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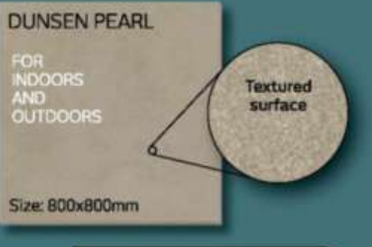
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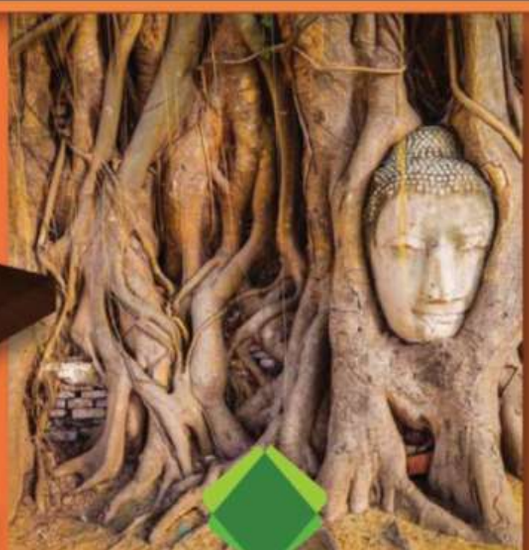
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Let it rain

When I first moved to the Highveld, I found the thunderstorms, especially the lightning, quite terrifying. I could understand why my dogs tried to squeeze under the bed at the first crack of thunder. Now it's just the opposite. When the clouds start building and the sky turns purple, I get hugely excited by the possibility of some much-needed rain. Last week I startled the GH team with a shout of 'Yay' when I heard rumbling overhead. Unfortunately it turned out to be the people on the floor above moving furniture.

A hot dry summer has been predicted for much of the country and drought is a huge concern for farmers in many areas as well as those gardeners who rely on rainfall to keep their gardens looking good. An e-mail from Wendy Weyermüller in Richards Bay, highlighting the dire conditions in that area and requesting some gardening advice, prompted this month's feature on dealing with drought by our Cape contributing editor Marianne Alexander. As Marianne explains, it's not just about growing succulents and putting in rain tanks, although these are sound strategies, it's also about rethinking garden design and traditional methods of planting and watering.

Drought aside, if you're updating your garden or starting one from scratch, the rising cost of water is reason enough to invest in underground water tanks and grey water systems and to landscape your garden to absorb and make the most of every precious drop. You'll find Marianne's informative guide on page 108.

But there is some good news for gardeners. Impatiens are back. After downy mildew decimated these colourful bedding plants a couple of years ago, they disappeared from many gardens. Fortunately, breeders have come up with new disease-resistant varieties that are now available from nurseries. Find out more about them and ways to minimise fungal attacks on page 92.

And on the subject of good news, we were delighted to receive both gold and silver awards at the recent Caxton Magazines Excellence Awards in the category Best in Decor/Gardening. The gold award was won by the *Garden and Home* team for the decor feature New Year, New Look on updating a sofa three different ways (February 2015), styled by Slate Interiors and photographed by Christoph Hoffmann. The silver went to the feature on Sue Deale's stunning spring garden (September 2014), beautifully photographed by Christoph Hoffmann and written by Alice Spenser-Higgs. Congratulations to all those who contributed to these features.

Mary Jane



The most-read feature on our website is on bomas and firepits, proof that they're the hot spot for entertaining. Be inspired by some new designs on page 68.



Treat yourself to breakfast in bed with this folding tray, R450, from the new range of bedroom and bathroom furniture from Volpes, the linen specialists. volpes.co.za

Brighten up containers and shady areas with some of the new impatiens like Super Elfin Cherry Splash. Read more about impatiens on page 92.





Add an instant tropical feel this summer with a Pina Colada scatter, R500, from Hertex. It's part of their new range of scatters available direct to the public. hertex.co.za

Coming up everywhere in my garden at the moment are my favourite self-seeders, opium poppies. Discover other effort-saving flowering plants on page 118.



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FAMILY TIME

My daughter and I had a great time trying the recipes in the September issue of *Garden and Home*.

Just like Jacqueline van Zyl (*Wholesome at heart*, p130), I like getting my daughter involved in the kitchen. She's often bored when I prepare complicated meals, but the uncooked chocolate brownies and peanut butter banana ice cream recipes were perfect.

We made lots of ice cream and my daughter made sure the neighbours' children, their friends and cousins knew about it, which brought us many visitors that afternoon!

The best part was seeing the smiles on their faces as they enjoyed their treat.

Thanks for the great issue!

Jacobeth Makala, Bronkhorstspruit

THE PERFECT GIFT

I thoroughly enjoyed the September issue of *Garden and Home*, which I received as a Secretaries' Day gift!

Judy Young, Umhlanga

We're glad you enjoyed the magazine! A subscription makes the ideal present. Turn to page 125 for our great subscription offer. You could even win a prize.

The colour purple

Purple is my new daughter-in-law's favourite colour, and after their purple-themed wedding, the cover of your September issue jumped out at me, and I couldn't wait to read it.

I've also been inspired to introduce purple flowers into my garden to celebrate their first anniversary next spring.

Thank you for the beautiful purple issue, I can't wait to share it with my daughter-in-law.

Joey Beukes, Middelburg



WE ASKED ONLINE...

What's on your bedside table?

- Water 17%
- Books 17%
- A plant 6%
- A lamp 22%
- All of the above 39%



If you've missed an issue, contact RNA to get a back copy of your favourite mag. 0860 100 207, 021 530 3382 or RNAD.co.za



WRITE IN AND WIN

Jacobeth has won a Hand Painted by Carmel tablecloth for an eight-seater table valued at R1 175. Hand Painted by Carmel provides gorgeous table linen lovingly hand-painted by Carmel Stoch. Her latest eye-catching designs feature bold florals like fynbos, and vegetables such as tomatoes, chillies and garlic. The tablecloths are made from coated 100% raw bull denim cotton, so they're completely stain- and liquid-resistant, allowing you to easily wipe them clean. Visit handpaintedbycarmel.com

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Home FRONT

Our pick of this month's highlights, from things to do and buy, to the latest decor news and the best places to visit

Olá Brasil!

Don't miss Samba, the vibrant new fabric collection from Jane Churchill. Folksy yet sophisticated, the Brazilian theme combines ikat damasks, geometrics and stylised foliage in zingy tropical shades. Available at Mavromac. mavromac.co.za





Classical Twist

Classical motifs are given a contemporary slant in Savor – the gorgeous new fabric range from Eijffinger. Powerful cobalt, jade and citrus tones are combined with easy-going neutrals for a look that's timeless yet edgy. See the range at Dreamweaver Studios. dreamweaverstudios.co.za



Summer Spree

Via La Moda's fine leather bags and accessories are available in a range of fabulous summer colours. See the collection at vialamoda.co.za



BEDROOM COLLECTION

SA linen company Volpes has developed a range of contemporary furniture pieces for bedrooms and bathrooms. The items range from modern pedestals and headboards to occasional chairs and bamboo ladders. volpes.co.za



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TEXT **TESS PATERSON, CATHERINE ZACHARIOU** AND **CANDICE BOTHA**
PHOTOGRAPHS **SUPPLIED**

The Right ANGLE

Taking its cue from the decorative style of the early 20th century, Cole & Son's Geometrics II features trellis patterns, Art Deco mosaics and Miami Beach architecture. See the collection at St Leger & Viney. stleger.co.za





Outdoor Dino

Brighten up your patio with the Dinosaur Chair from Mobelli. With a sturdy aluminium frame and attractive teak inserts, this chair has a deep, broad seat for ultimate comfort. mobelli.co.za



Contemporary Cool

Frans Alexander Interiors's new showroom in Umhlanga is a feast for the senses with its double volume proportions, gorgeous wallpapers and sophisticated room settings. Pop in for serious interiors inspiration. fransalexander.com, 11 Beacon Rock, 21 Lighthouse Road, Umhlanga Rocks, KZN.



Sunny STRIPES

We love Hertex Fabrics's latest outdoor fabric range, Outward Bound. It's perfect for sofas on the veranda or to cover cushions. Look out for neutral plains teamed with jacquard geometrics or stylish stripes, as pictured here. hertex.co.za



Shimmer and Shine

Whether your tastes are country barn or a little more Versailles, sometimes a statement chandelier is all a room needs. The new K9 crystal chandelier from K. Light Import is just the ticket for glamour and sparkle. klight.co.za ▷

BRANCHING OUT

Known for its extensive range of sofas, and as the exclusive stockists of outdoor furniture brand, Beach7, Woodenways Luxury Furniture has opened two new branches. You'll find them in the Hemel-en-Aarde Village, Hermanus, and at the new Design Quarter at Nelspruit's Riverside Park. woodenways.co.za



Posh Porcelain

Studio Masson is the latest destination for the finest range of Italian and European natural porcelain stoneware in South Africa. Visit the new showroom, in Paarden Eiland, Cape Town. studiomasson.co.za



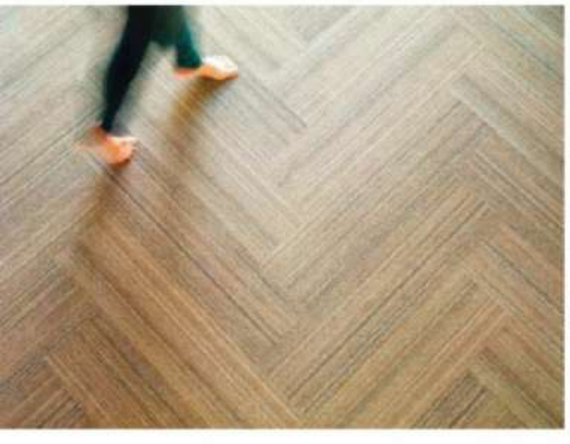
Pattern Play

Lou Harvey's new range of bags and accessories feature overblown florals, monochrome designs and intricate patterns – all bang on-trend for summer. louharvey.co.za



Like wood UNDERFOOT

The Monn Planc carpet range has a linear, timber-like effect, bridging the gap between hard and soft flooring options. Available in eight colourways, it's both comfy and flexible, and can be laid to create numerous designs. Visit monn.co.za for a list of suppliers.









THIS MONTH – *we're loving*

"Locally made custom wallpapers," says contributing writer Tess Paterson. "I love their versatility, from photographic landscapes like (1) Path Over Dunes, Smart Art (smartart.co.za), to detailed tile patterns like (2) Azulejos and graphic textures such as (3) Blue Sea, both Robin Sprong Wallpaper (robinsprong.com)"

What's On

30 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER Glenshiel Christmas Fair

Find festive stalls, gorgeous gifts and a food marquee at this annual fair in Westcliff, Jo'burg, and look out for Liz Wood's gourmet Christmas cakes. Tickets are R40 pp. For more details, search for Glenshiel Christmas Fair on Facebook.

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Lost and FOUND



Cape Town-based artist Lisette Forsyth makes art of overlooked, everyday surfaces

Tell me about your artistic history. I actually worked as a fashion model from the age of 14, but I studied art at school and then graphic design. I started painting simply because I wanted art for my home. My walls were soon filled, yet there was no end to my need to paint. I now paint full time, with the occasional modelling job.

What inspires you? The perseverance of the human spirit and all things transient. I've explored transient subjects for some time; I once did a picture series of the beach at the same time every morning for a year.

What is your artistic style? I try to capture the essence of a subject with as little as possible. I often work on found surfaces like car doors, old newspapers or traffic signs. There's already a dialogue with that, so I simply respond to it. If it stands still long enough I paint on it!

How does an idea become a finished piece? It usually starts with the found surface, which dictates the subject matter and medium. This can stand around in my studio for years before I find the matching image. I take photographs every day of things that inspire me and then make matches between the found object and the subject.

Tell us about your studio. It's an old building in Woodstock with big north-facing windows overlooking the street. It was a real mess when I first moved in seven years ago, but I find it has a spirit of its own. I'm rarely disturbed there and don't have to tidy up, so I work on a few pieces at a time and then live with them through all the stages.

What is your favourite medium and why? I have an ink pen with a nib like a paintbrush. It can be as fine as a hair or as thick as a thumb depending how hard you press.

What have been your career highlights? My successful exhibitions 'An Honest Day's Work' and 'Love Thy Neighbour', because they also addressed social issues. I donated some pieces to Ukuthemba Foundation, a charity that rescues abused and neglected children. British TV personality Graham Norton raised a huge amount of money for them and purchased three of my paintings.

What artists do you admire? Two of my favourite local contemporaries are Michael Taylor, for his loose style and use of colour, and Paul Edmunds for his concepts. I also admire William Kentridge's style and political content.

What are your future plans? I'd like to finish building my new studio in Brooklyn, near Milnerton, and set up my present studio in Woodstock as a gallery. I want to do more collaborations and continue to explore functional art, which is art that can be used practically, like the shelving unit I completed with artist Mark Matthysen.

SOURCES **Lisette Forsyth** liset4sight.com **Mark Matthysen** mark4creative@gmail.com **Michael Taylor** michaeltaylor.co.za **Paul Edmunds** pauledmunds.co.za **Ukuthemba Foundation** ukuthemba.org **William Kentridge** mariangoodman.com/artists/william-kentridge

TEXT **CATHERINE ZACHARIOU** PHOTOGRAPHS **SUPPLIED**

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Focus Open 2014 Silver

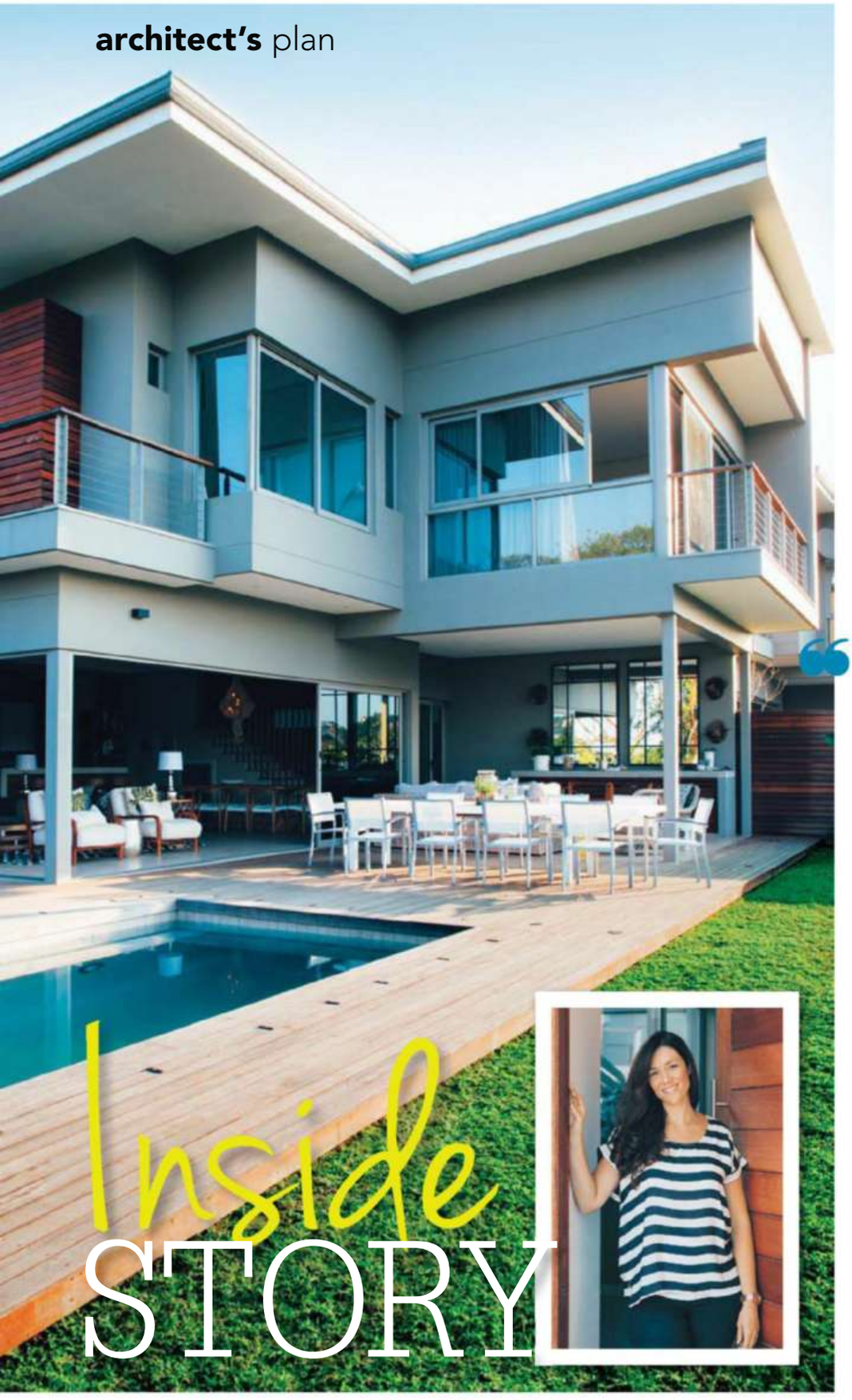
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Inside STORY

Interior architectural designer Cara Slater-Middlewick works on both the interior and exterior of a building to ensure a balance of practicality and aesthetics that suits the owners' lifestyle

AT A GLANCE

THE ARCHITECT: Cara Slater-Middlewick of Cara Slater Architectural Design and Decor.
THE CLIENT: A young couple and their two-year-old daughter.
THE BRIEF: A luxurious home that allows for relaxed living and entertaining.
THE HOUSE: A 454m² double-storey house with four en suite bedrooms, a separate studio office, scullery and open-plan living area, which opens onto a covered patio, swimming pool, firepit and garden.

"My job is to build on the architect's design," says interior architectural designer Cara Slater-Middlewick. "I work in conjunction with the architect from the inception of the project, considering the way the clients live and making adjustments to the shell of the house and the interiors to suit their lifestyle. The most important thing about a build is that the interior designer and architect work hand in hand."

Many architectural firms have in-house interior designers that take on this role, but Cara works with a number of different architects and also provides a project management service.

This house is part of the Saxonwood Luxury Villas development on Dunkirk Estate in Ballito, KZN, where Cara was involved in the design of all 10 units, creating homes for easy, luxurious living.

"The owners of this house wanted an open-plan living area, so good storage was essential to ensure that unsightly but necessary items are hidden," Cara recalls. She extended the size of the living area and made the bedrooms larger, for easier movement and to ensure that the owners' existing furniture fitted comfortably. To make these structural changes, Cara worked closely with engineer John Butler of

TEXT **CANDICE BOTHA** PHOTOGRAPHS **LAR RATTRAY**





ON THE WEB

GET THIS PLAN ONLINE
Visit gardenandhome.co.za and click on Architects' Plans to download the plan.

RJB Projects, who redesigned the home's plans. Building contractor Ian McMurchie then implemented the changes. "It always helps if your team has the same vision," Cara says.

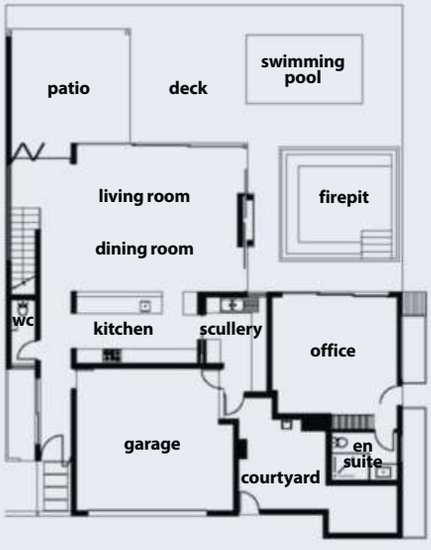
"I ask my clients to give me decor and architectural references they love, and I try to turn these images into a reality for them. For example, if they have a family heirloom, I'll make sure we have a space for it," she explains.

Upstairs, she also increased the size of the landing to accommodate a pyjama lounge and a study nook, effectively giving the family two extra living spaces. She also took the height of the cupboards to the ceiling to maximise storage space.

Bathrooms and kitchens are areas that particularly benefit from this type of expertise and Cara thought of clever touches to make the rooms more workable. These included a built-in laundry basket to keep things neat but convenient, ventilation in the cupboards to minimise mildew and a raised kitchen counter to hide the mess of prep work.

Luxury was also part of the brief, and Cara chose high-end finishes like French oak cladding, Caesarstone, Hansgrohe taps and balau decking. Underfloor heating was installed to ensure that the floor tiles, chosen for their durability, are not too cold in winter. "Practicality is key and always top of mind," says Cara.

Ground floor



First floor







SOURCES **Cara Slater Architectural Design and Decor** caraslaterdesigns.com
Ian McMurchie Building Construction 083 255 2001 **RJB Projects** 083 654 9913
Saxonwood Luxury Villas 082 495 4388

Mad about STRIPES

The classic stripe is back with a new monochrome twist



1. Boutique Daddy triple-seater **sofa** by Marcel Wanders, POR, Moooi. **2. Mirror**, R4 950, Con Amore. **3.** Gervasoni InOut ceramic **ottoman**, R8 813,34, The Modern Home Company. **4.** Kenwood kMix **kitchen machine**, R3 859, Yuppiechef.com. **5.** Logo **tote**, R499, Country Road. **6. Cake plate**, R269, @home. **7. Teacup** in black and white, R99, @home. **8.** Nanette **scatter cushion**, R280, Linen House. **9. Chest of drawers**, R18 995, Weylandts.

SOURCES **@home** home.co.za **Con Amore** 011 262 0903 **Country Road** woolworths.co.za **Linen House** linenhouse.co.za **Moooi** moooi.com **The Modern Home Company** modernhome.co.za **Vintage Vista** vintagevista.co.za **Weylandts** weylandts.co.za **Yuppiechef.com** yuppiechef.com

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EWA 72	REVENGE P1-E2-1	SAVANNA R3-E2-3	RAVINE 62
ANTIQUE PETAL 43	WINTER HAVEN B2-E2-3	ALUMINIUM SNOW 45	MAMELLO B5-A2-1

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TIPS FROM THE EXPERT



Estel Grobler, textile designer and buyer for Volpes, has this advice when choosing bedlinen:

- To make sure you have the right size, measure the mattress and the depth from the highest point (including the mattress pad and any bedding used under the sheets) to the bottom. Check whether you have a standard or an extra-length mattress and read labels carefully before purchasing.
- Cotton-polyester blends are wrinkle-resistant, durable and comparatively inexpensive. If you're looking for that soft, cool feel, nothing beats 100% cotton, but keep in mind that cotton creases. For something more luxurious, try Egyptian cotton, as the fibres are longer than regular cotton, making it stronger and softer. If you like your sheets with a little snap, choose percale, which is a plainer weave than the more supple sateen.
- The thread count is the number of threads per square inch, and in good sheets this ranges from 200 to 800. It's often assumed that higher means softer, but this isn't always the case. A lower thread count sheet made from Egyptian cotton will feel silkier than a high thread count sheet in a lower-quality cotton blend. GH



Add comfort with **scatter cushions** in cool blues. Xolani indigo scatter (above left), R249, Superbalist.com; Facet Mentos scatter (above right), R500, Hertex.

Keep the look light and beachy. Use large wicker baskets to store extra cushions and throws. Medium rectangular **basket**, R3 450, The Private House Company.





Add a touch of nostalgia with an alarm clock in a laid-back vintage style. Sailor table **clock**, R495, Coricraft.

If you need extra warmth, cuddle up in a **throw** like this checked version, R299, from Woolworths.







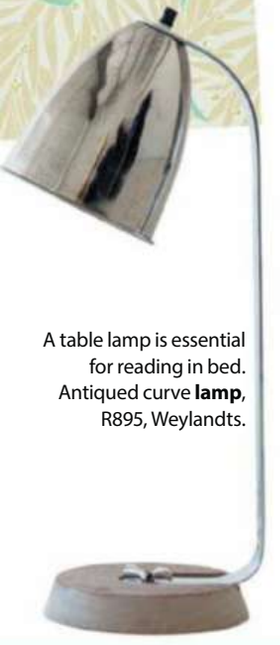
Set the mood with a subtle, nature-inspired **wallpaper**. Harlequin Juniper Formosa (top), R2 430/10m roll, and Harlequin Delphine Lauren (bottom), R2 430/10m roll, both Black Fabrics.



One of the most useful items, a butler's tray can be used as a bedside table or a tea tray. **Butler's tray**, R595, Volpes.



Instead of artwork, make a feature of old postcards. Set of 10 Sweet William **postcards**, R149, Superbalist.com



A table lamp is essential for reading in bed. Antiqued curve **lamp**, R895, Weylandts.

SOURCES **Black Fabrics** blackfabrics.co.za **Coricraft** coricraft.co.za **Hertex** hertex.co.za **Superbalist.com** superbalist.com **The Private House Company** privatehouseco.co.za **Volpes** volpes.co.za **Weylandts** weylandts.co.za **Woolworths** woolworths.co.za



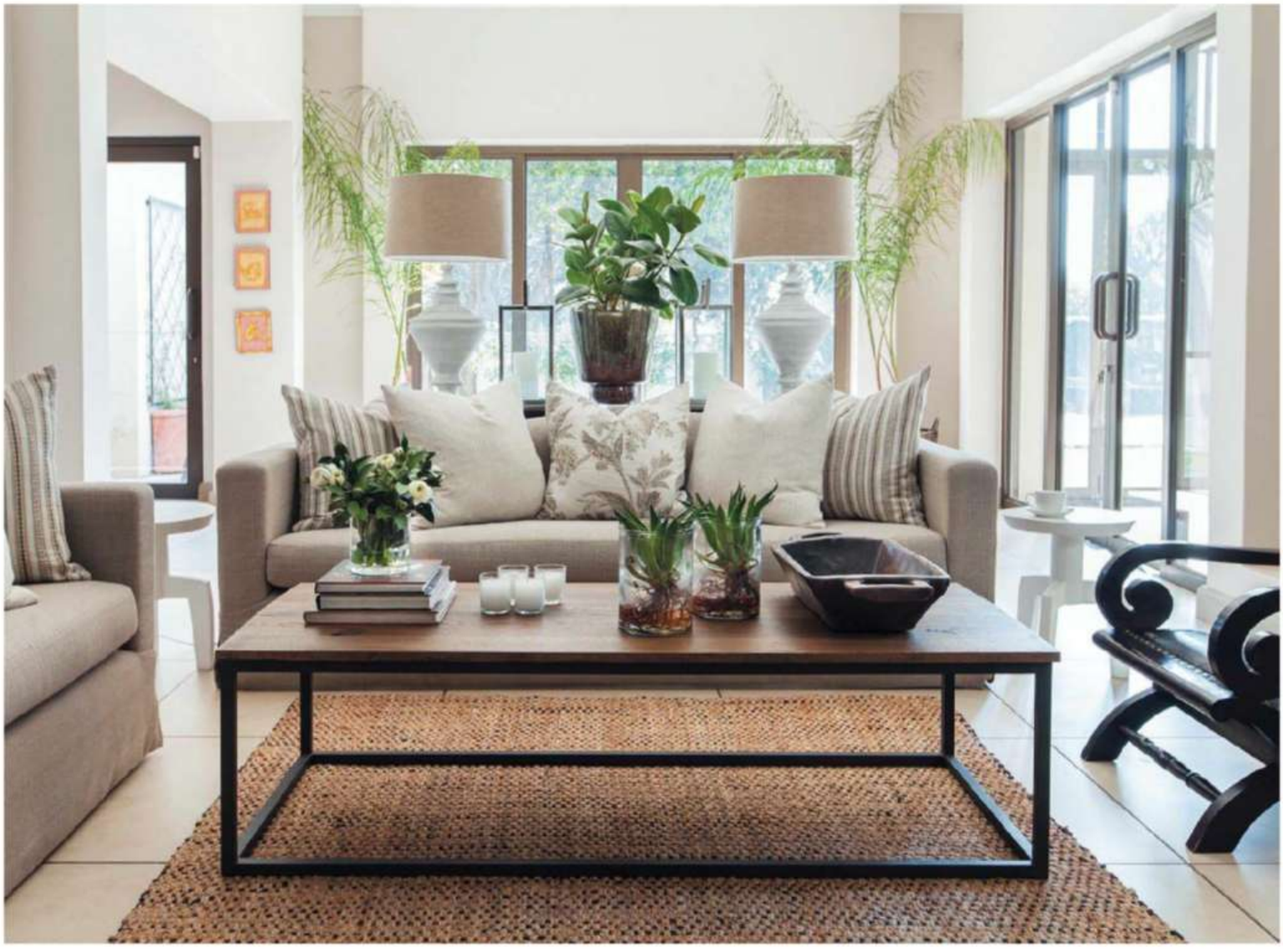
Full HOUSE

A large family fell in love with the easy flow and open-plan layout of their Jo'burg home the minute they saw it

TEXT **JO TRAPPITT** PHOTOGRAPHS **CHRISTOPH HOFFMANN**



THIS PAGE: Transparent ghost chairs from United Furniture Outlets on the **covered patio** don't block the view of the garden.
OPPOSITE PAGE: The scatters on the sofa feature fabrics from Stuart Graham Furnishing Fabrics. ▷



"As we have a large family, with two sets of twins, it was important to find a house that could accommodate all our kids, not only now, but when they're older too," explains Jackie Pennington. She and her husband Dave found their ideal home in the northern suburbs of Jo'burg two and a half years ago. "It ticked all the boxes – size, location and a spacious garden," she recalls. "The easy flow and open-plan layout attracted us and we fell in love with it the minute we saw it."

However, when it came to the decor, the Penningtons felt they didn't have the time or the creativity to do it justice. They enlisted the help of Jonathan Avnon of Joseph Avnon Interiors to make the most of the home's features. The brief included incorporating their existing art collection and a few key pieces they already had, which would also help keep the costs down.

"Dave and Jackie were great clients, and were completely open to my suggestions," says Jonathan. The Penningtons went ahead with Jonathan's initial concept: a practical yet warm and inviting neutral scheme with on-trend elements such as potted palms, aloes and fresh flowers. "These elements bring the house to life and add a sense of balance. For me, greenery goes hand in hand with decor," he says, pointing out how the fabrics in contemporary designs pick up the tones of the garden.

In the living area, he arranged the Penningtons' existing sofas at right angles and anchored them with a new coffee table. "I placed a console table behind the sofa so we could add two lamps to give the setting more impact." Sisal rugs in the living room and covered patio add warmth and texture to the large tiles used throughout the ground floor. Fortunately, the kitchen needed no renovation or updating, and all Jonathan added here ▷



Who lives here

Attorneys Jackie and Dave Pennington, their 10-year-old twin girls, Camryn and Jordan, six-year-old twin boys, Joshua and Caleb, Rosy the cat, Storm the German shepherd and Max, a rescue pup.

The house

A spacious five-bedroom, double-storey home with open-plan living areas that spill onto a covered patio and a lush garden.

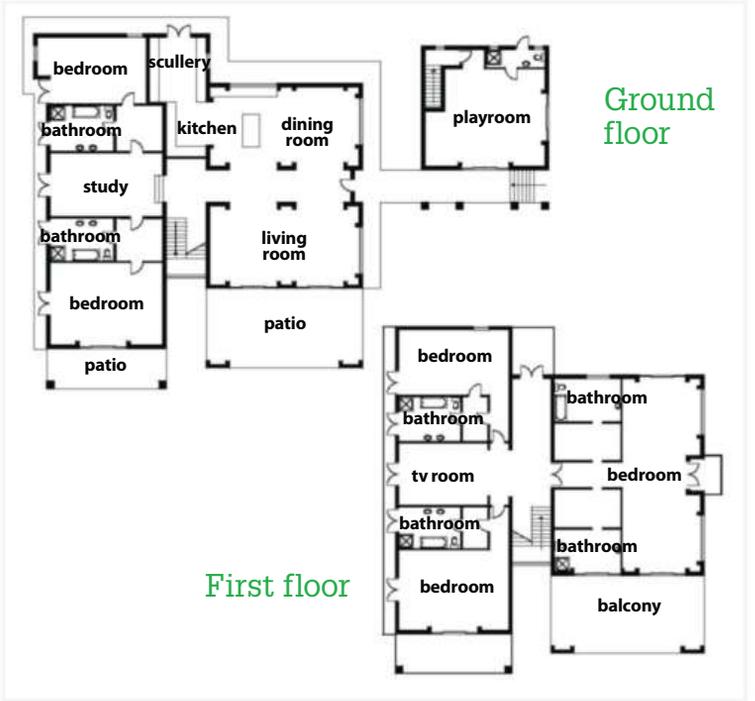


THIS PAGE: The spacious **kitchen** and additional island seating has room for the whole family.
OPPOSITE PAGE: The coffee table from SHF complements the laid-back feel of the **living room**.









THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ● Framed botanical prints from workART continue the floral theme in the **main bedroom**. ● In the **spare bedroom**, a fresh coat of white Annie Sloan Chalk Paint revitalised the existing bedside tables. The four-poster bed is from SHF. ● The daybeds in the **main bedroom** accommodate the whole family on movie nights.





were new bar stools and chunky shelving for cookbooks and accessories.

Aware that the family loves entertaining and spending time in their garden, Jonathan created an indoor-outdoor living area on the covered patio, which has stacking doors that can be opened or closed depending on the weather. Comfortable sofas alongside a rustic dining table make it a stylish yet relaxed space where adults can socialise while children swim and play in the garden. "Weekends are family time," says Jackie. "In the summer, there's always a large group enjoying a braai or potjie in the garden."

When it came to decorating the children's rooms, it was important not to theme them too heavily so that they can be easily updated easily as the children grow. The palette for the boys' room included base colours like browns and greens with fun vintage accessories. "These give the scheme an edge while still being age appropriate. Statement artwork above the beds means the look can easily be changed at a later stage without having to redo the entire room," explains Jonathan. For the girls, he chose pastel pinks and blues, adding whimsical floral fabrics and candy striped scatters. "The kids love their new rooms," says Jackie, "I don't even need to ask them to make their beds in the mornings!"

One of Dave and Jackie's favourite spaces is their bedroom. Large florals create focal points in the generously proportioned room. "It required much thought and planning to make this large space feel cosy and luxurious without feeling cluttered," Jonathan recalls. The addition of two daybeds means that the whole family can get together in this room for movie nights. ▷

THIS PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT:
● A bold accent wall provides a backdrop for the quirky shelf accessories in the **boys' room**. ● A mix of textured wood and leather works well in the **boys' bedroom**.

Get the look

Recreate this indoor-outdoor feel in your living room







Fountain Phalaenopsis **orchid**, R349,99, Woolworths.



Succulent in small glass, R99,99, Woolworths.

Bamileke natural wooden **stool**, R3 495, Weylandts.





Fronds **cushion cover**, from R345, Skinny laMinx.



Grey chevron **cushion cover**, from R220, Zana.





Joker **chair**, R2 052, Eclipse.

Ashmore jute **rug**, 190cm x 270cm, R1 700, Mr Price Home.



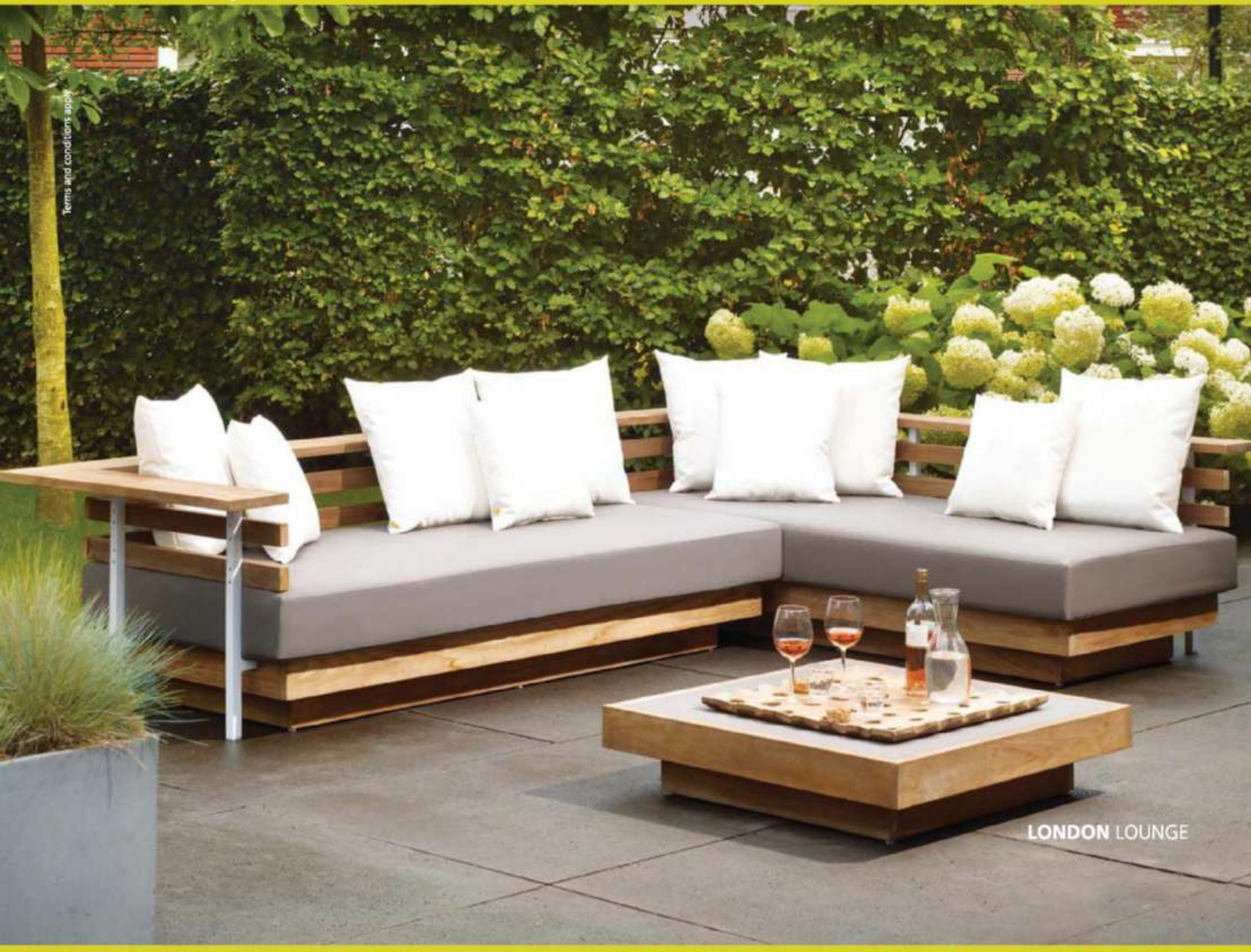
Elton **sofa**, from R7 995, Coricraft.

ABOVE: Mirror wall hangings and a mirrored side table add glam to the **girls' bedroom**.

SOURCES **Annie Sloan Chalk Paint** anniesloansa.co.za **Coricraft** coricraft.co.za **Eclipse** eclipsegroup.co.za **Joseph Avnon Interiors** josephavnoninteriors.com **Mr Price Home** mrphome.com **Prestigious Textiles South Africa** prestigious.co.za **SHF** shf.co.za **Skinny laMinx** skinnylaminx.co.za **Stuart Graham Furnishing Fabrics** stuartgraham.co.za **United Furniture Outlets** unitedfurnitureoutlets.co.za **Weylandts** weylandts.co.za **Woolworths** woolworths.co.za **workART** workart.co.za **Zana** zanaproducts.co.za

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Bright new BEGINNINGS

When interior decorator Heather Welham and her family relocated to the Cape, she gave their new home her classic contemporary style

TEXT **CATHERINE ZACHARIOU** PHOTOGRAPHS **HENRIQUE WILDING**





Who lives here

Heather Welham, owner of Portfolio Interiors, her husband Lindsay, and their daughters Victoria (20) and Angie (14). Their eldest daughter Christine (21) is studying in Pretoria. Charlie, a shih tzu, Rusty, a Pomeranian, and their cat Mr Mistoffelees also live here.

The house

A four-bedroom double-storey home with an open-plan living, dining and kitchen area. ▷

THIS SPREAD: Heather's love of art is evident in her eclectic collection. In the **living room**, an elephant watercolour by Latvian-born artist Roswitha von Glen sits above a metal chest of drawers from Pezula Interiors.



To furnish her new home in Claremont, Cape Town, interior decorator Heather Welham drew on her 30 years of experience to create a comfortable but chic environment. "I love developing my clients' styles and making the home their own," says Heather. It was this philosophy that she adopted when furnishing her own house.

The move came after eight years of Lindsay commuting between Jo'burg and Cape Town. "Our youngest daughter was starting high school and our middle daughter university in Stellenbosch. Our eldest daughter was in her final year at Tuks and I knew she could cope without me. It was the perfect time for us to move to the Cape."

They found a compact lock-up-and-go townhouse close to Angie's school, with en suite bathrooms, an open-plan living area, a small garden for their pets and exquisite mountain views. "This home ticked all the boxes for me. It's a long story but I believe the home found us!" laughs Heather.

It was the show house for the complex, and lacked character or style, which was something Heather easily changed. Having left all their furniture behind, they had to decorate their home from scratch. "I wanted to create a simple yet eclectic interior that was unified in style and colour. We do a lot of entertaining, so we have a long dining table on the patio and a cocktail bar inside for cold, rainy occasions that can also double as a dining area if necessary." As there are students and pets, Heather clothed the sofas with practical loose covers, which can be removed and washed.

For textural interest, she introduced natural fabrics like linen, silk and sisal, and brought in colour with chartreuse linen scatters in the sitting room and drama with an oversized black chair in the TV room. "I like a neutral base punctuated with accents of colour and excitement," comments Heather.

Her daughters' bedrooms reflect their personal tastes while still maintaining Heather's trademark style of a neutral palette accented with colour. "There's a constant stream of lively students, so the rooms had to stand up to the wear and tear while still looking good," she says.

"Our lifestyle is simple and laid-back, so the decor suits us perfectly. We use every inch of our living areas and spend lots of time on the veranda taking in the mountain views." ▷

ABOVE: Charlie, the family shih tzu, relaxes on the sofa in the **TV room**.

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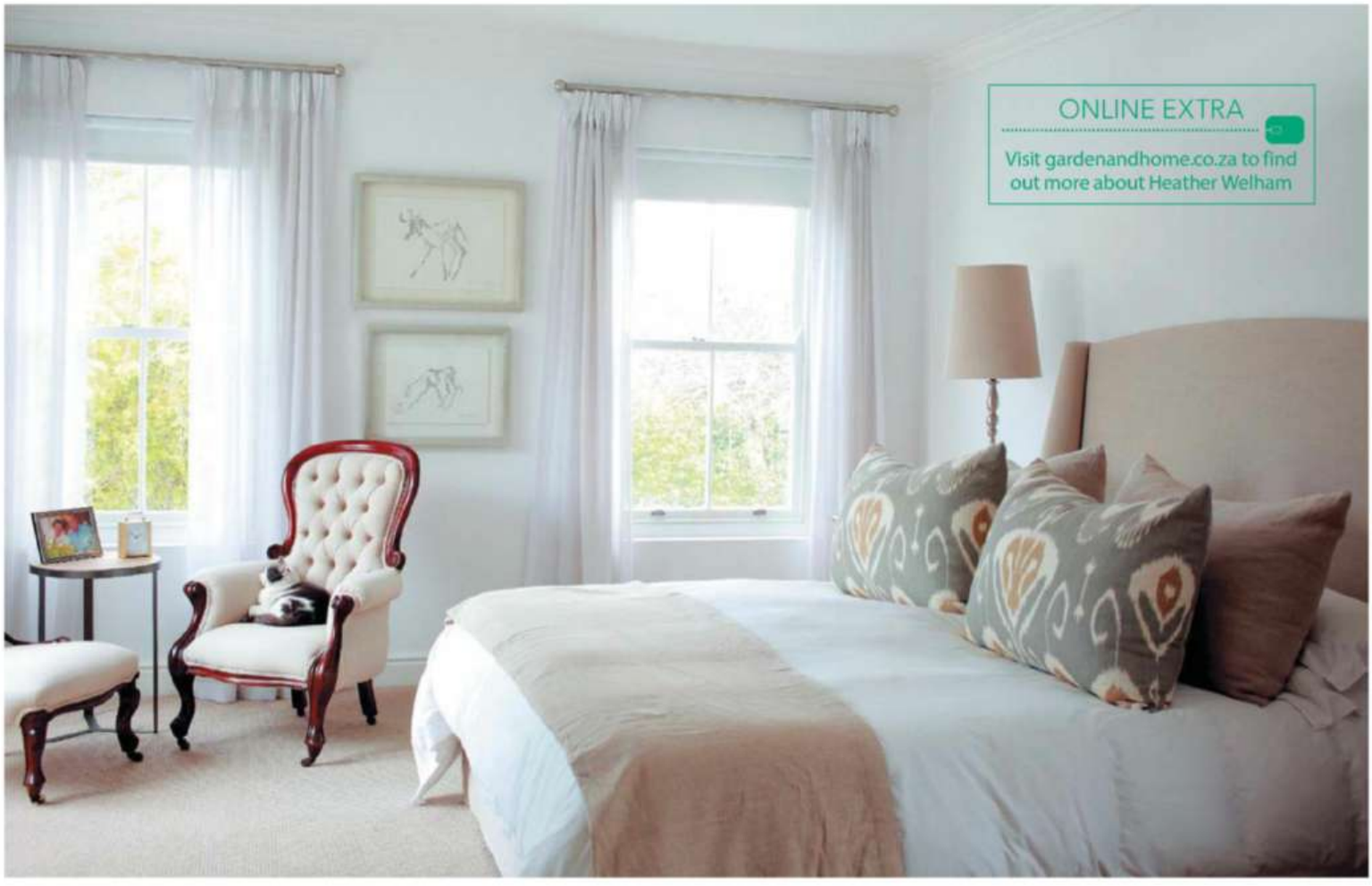






THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ● As the main **dining area** is located on the patio, Heather added a **cocktail bar** inside for cooler nights and ordered the stools from Robert Thomson. ● "I love open-plan living, especially cooking in the **kitchen** while life buzzes around me," says Heather. ● Spacious sofas from Sofaworx and plump scatter cushions make for a cosy atmosphere in the **TV room**. The coffee table is from Trade Secret and the oversized woven chair from Vanilla House Interiors. ▷


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ONLINE EXTRA
Visit gardenandhome.co.za to find out more about Heather Welham









Get the look

Recreate Heather Welham's living area with these great buys



Skippy **table** set of three, R5 999, La Grange Interiors.



Monte **cabinet**, R27 995, Weylandts.



Amsterdam **coffee table**, R9 995, Block & Chisel.



Stainless steel **standing lamp**, R1 400, Mr Price Home.



Belinda 3,5-seater **sofa**, R22 995, Block & Chisel.

ABOVE: Heather turned to Cape Town stores like LIM for the bedside tables, and The Old Biscuit Mill for the black-and-white prints, when decorating the upstairs **spare bedroom**.

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ● Mr Mistoffelees relaxes on a chair in Heather and Lindsay's **bedroom**, where sheer curtains are balanced by heavy linen throws and soft furnishings. ● Heather's en suite **bathroom** is still a work in progress, although subtle touches like an earthy wooden stool and a selection of her colourful scarves make their mark. ● "All Angie wanted in her **bedroom** was a four-poster bed and I loved this one from Weylandts, which works so well with the Design Team Love Doll fabric on the scatter cushions," says Heather.

COMPILED BY **CATHERINE ZACHARIOU** PHOTOGRAPHS **SUPPLIED** PRODUCTS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND PRICES WERE CHECKED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. SEE PAGE 6.

SOURCES **Block & Chisel** blockandchisel.co.za **Design Team** designteamfabrics.co.za **La Grange Interiors** lagrangeinteriors.co.za **LIM** lim.co.za **Mr Price Home** mrphome.com **Pezula Interiors** pezulainteriors.co.za **Portfolio Interiors** Heather Welham 083 443 0339 **Robert Thomson** robert-thomson.com **Sofaworx** sofaworx.co.za **The Old Biscuit Mill** theoldbiscuitmill.co.za **Trade Secret** trade-secret.co.za **Vanilla House Interiors** vanillahouseinteriors.co.za **Weylandts** weylandts.co.za



Time for a change

What started as a minor renovation resulted in Brandon and Natalie Mansour transforming their house into their dream home

TEXT **NATALIE BORUVKA** PHOTOGRAPHS **CHRISTOPH HOFEMANN**

Who lives here

Brandon and Natalie Mansour, owners of Four Seasons Gardens, their nine-year-old daughter Jordan and their 12-year-old son Joshua.

The house

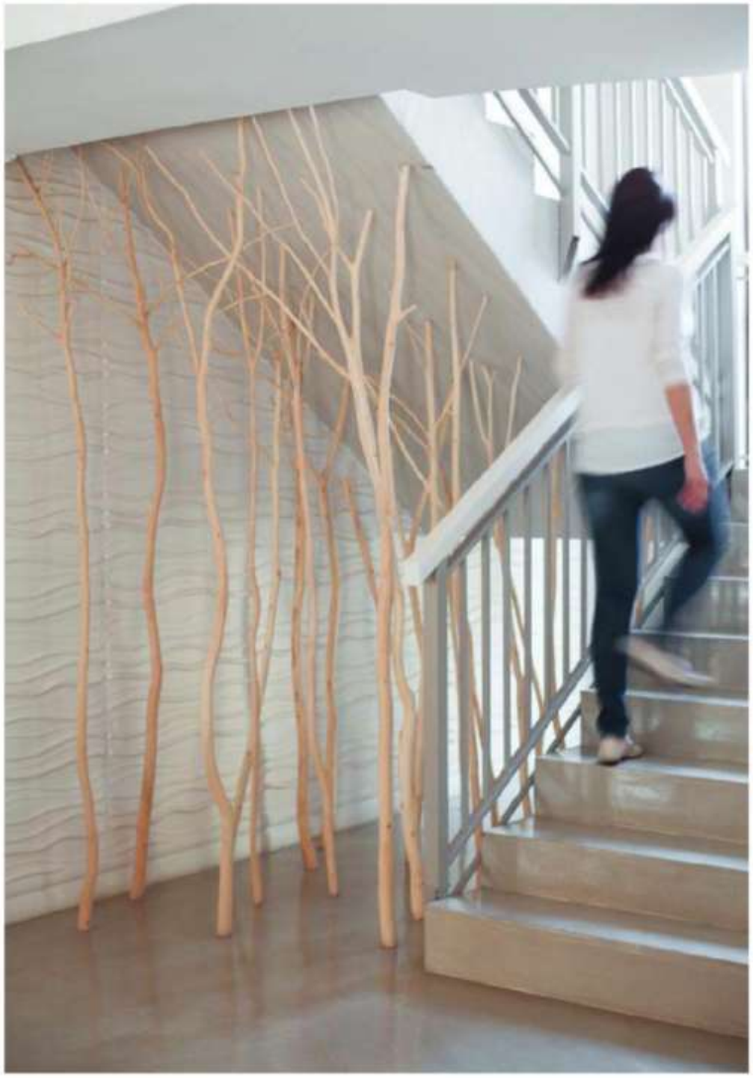
A Bali-style double-storey home north of Jo'burg, anchored by a spacious open-plan living area with seamless screed floors. ▷



THIS PAGE: Mirrors add drama to the **dining room.** The table is from SHF. The light fittings are from Weylandts and the rug from YC Carpets.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The server was custom made by Nowadays Interiors, and the photographic tree image by acclaimed artist David Ballam is from Amatuli.





A year and a half ago, Brandon and Natalie Mansour had no intention of renovating their home in Jo'burg's Eagle Canyon Golf Estate. However, after the installation of a bath in their daughter's bathroom, the couple decided it was time to address the other parts of their house they were unhappy with, and began a full home renovation. "It wasn't a whim," says Natalie, "Brandon and I felt it was time to put our personal stamp on a home that we had bought five years ago."

Though the open-plan layout of the ground floor living area was one of the features that appealed to the Mansours, it didn't provide a comfortable flow and wasn't flexible. "While we needed a large enough area for entertaining, we also wanted the space to meet our day-to-day needs as a family," explains Natalie. "And with our kids growing up, we wanted them to be able to enjoy the home as much as we do."

Having worked with Cathrin Bolt and Ané Coertzen of Nowadays Interiors on a previous project, the Mansours asked them to assist in reworking the ground floor, gutting and remodelling the main bathroom and giving the home a total facelift with new finishes and furnishings.

The first to go were the ceramic floor tiles on the ground floor. "They were an orange-yellow colour that seemed to absorb all the light and made this area quite dark," explains Natalie. "We wanted a finish that would look fresh and contemporary and still be easy to maintain." With guidance from Cathrin and Ané they decided on Cemcrete screed which proved the most efficient option for a six-week deadline. "It was quite a challenge to live in the house while it was being done because we had to wait for areas to cure, but on the whole we saved so much time by screeding directly over the ceramic tiles," says Brandon.

To give the ground floor better flow, the living room became the dining room and the dining room became the new living space. The kitchen was redesigned to include a built-in table where the family can enjoy meals together. "By placing the dining area in the centre with easy access to the kitchen, we were able to use a much larger dining table," explains Cathrin.

Unifying the open-plan area, the decor scheme features wood, natural textures and a colour that Cathrin describes as 'sea foam'. The scheme evolved organically as finishes, furnishings and accessories were chosen. "It all came together with a grouping of eucalyptus branches which made the perfect filler for the dead space under the stairs."

A step down from the open-plan living area is another large entertaining space, which leads onto the patio with a kids' lounge on one side and a seating area on the other, both of which can be closed off with a sliding door. "It's an arrangement that meets everyone's needs and keeps the focus of our home firmly on family life," says Natalie. ▷



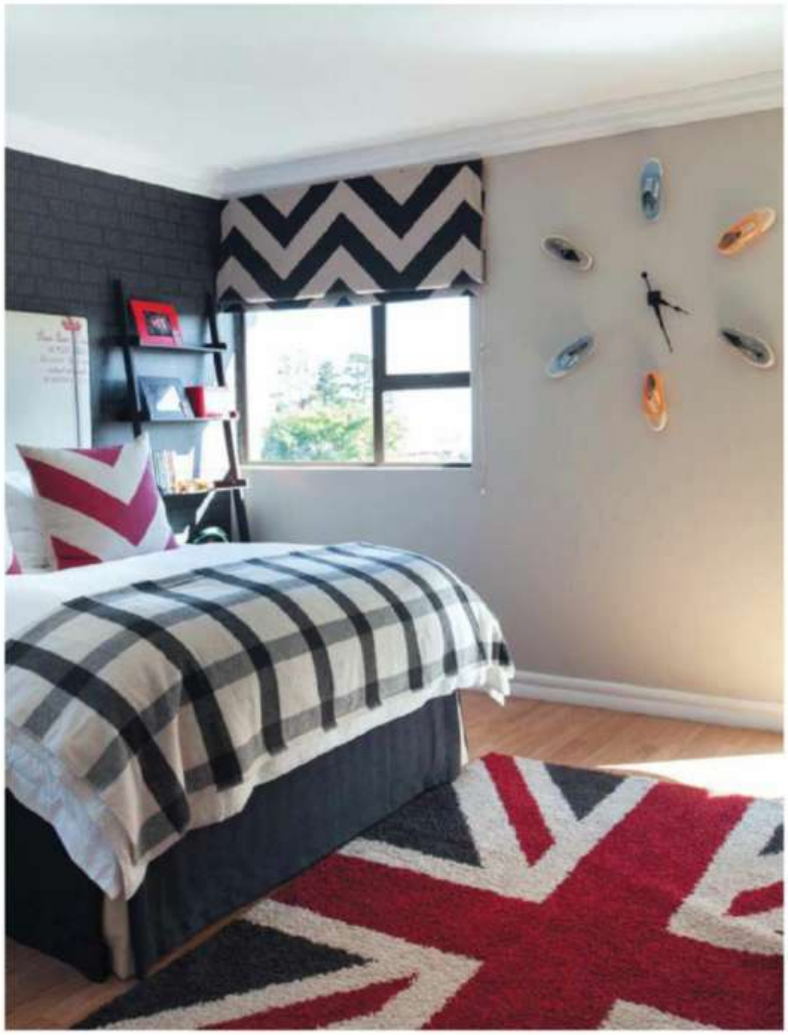
THIS PAGE: The **kitchen** was designed and installed by Easylife Kitchens Ruimsig. The lights are from One Good Turn and the chairs from Woodlam.

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM: The custom-made sofa in the **TV room** was upholstered in Victory Gull by Home Fabrics. The geometric scatters in Vaudaire from Hertex keep the look contemporary. Eucalyptus branches under the **stairs** make an arresting feature.





THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
● The headboard and mirrored side tables in the **main bedroom** were custom made by Nowadays Interiors, and the wallpaper is from Romo's Folia Collection. ● The **main bathroom** was gutted and redesigned with vanities installed by Easylife Kitchens Ruimsig. ● Nowadays Interiors also designed the shelving unit in the **office**. ● In **Joshua's bedroom**, a selection of his old sneakers was used to create a wall clock.









Get the look

Get this cool contemporary look in your kitchen



Axor Starck semi-pro **mixer**, R7 349,61, Hansgrohe.

Cardboard **pendant** with frosted glass, R1 999, Lightco.





Metal **utensil holder**, R140, Woolworths.



J107 **chair** by HAY, R3 424,28, Créma Design.



Halo **kettle** in Marseille blue, R730, Le Creuset.





Dualit two-slice classic **toaster** in canvas white, R3 039,99, Hirsch's.



Eetrite enamel coated cast-iron oval **casserole dish** in turquoise, R1 599,95, Boardmans.

ABOVE, TOP TO BOTTOM: Nowadays Interiors designed the headboard in **Jordan's bedroom**. The Eijffinger Bloom wallpaper is from Dreamweaver Studios. The replica Eero Aarnio bubble chair is from Chair Crazy.

SOURCES **Amatuli** amatuli.co.za **Boardmans** boardmans.co.za **Cemcrete** cemcrete.co.za **Chair Crazy** chaircrazy.co.za **Créma Design** cremadesign.co.za **Dreamweaver Studios** dreamweaverstudios.co.za **Eagle Canyon Golf Estate** eaglecanyongolfestate.co.za **Easylife Kitchens** easylifekitchens.co.za **Four Seasons Gardens** fourseasonsgardens.co.za **Hansgrohe** hansgrohe.co.za **Hertex** hertex.co.za **Hirsch's** hirschs.co.za **Home Fabrics** hf.co.za **Le Creuset** lecreuset.co.za **Lightco** lightco.co.za **Nowadays Interiors** nowadaysinteriors.co.za **One Good Turn** onegoodturn.co.za **Romo** romo.com **SHF** shf.co.za **Weylandts** weylandts.co.za **Woodlam** woodlam.co.za **Woolworths** woolworths.co.za **YC Carpets** 011 262 3097

Easy does it

You'll love these useful tips that'll make life at home just a little bit easier

PREP AND STORAGE SPACE

Make space for two cooks in the kitchen with an island that has extra prep and storage areas. The African Allure mini centre island, R11 581, from Milestone Kitchens, has casters so it's easy to move to the most convenient spot.



LOW-MAINTENANCE FLOORS

A floor that looks good with minimal effort is a huge time saver. Popular choices are screed floors and wood-look vinyl, like this one from Belgotex Floors, which just needs sweeping and a light mop to keep it clean. Decor by By Dezign Interiors.

COMPILED BY **MARY JANE HARRIS, JO TRAPPITT, CANDICE BOTHA** AND **CATHERINE ZACHARIOU** PHOTOGRAPHS **CHRISTOPH HOFFMANN, GREG COX, HENRIQUE WILDING, ADAM LETCH, SALLY CHANCE, LAR RATTRAY** AND **SUPPLIED** PRODUCTS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND PRICES WERE CHECKED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. SEE PAGE 6.

ADD AN OTTOMAN

Make your living area more comfortable by swapping your coffee table for an ottoman so you can put your feet up. For drinks and books, use a small U-shaped table that fits neatly under the bottom of the sofa. Decor by Cheryl Herweg of Changing Spaces.





1 2

NO-FUSS FOLIAGE

There's no hassle with these faux plants. The (1) grassy shrub pot plant, R129, from @home and (2) split philo silk plant, R350, from Vintage Vista, look good all year round.

TEA AND COFFEE STATION

A dedicated tea and coffee station streamlines morning tea making. Include plenty of storage space, as Kim Hansen of Kitchen Classics did here with deep drawers and wall-mounted cabinets. Sufficient electrical plugs and an easy-to-clean surface are essential.



SPACIOUS STORAGE

If you're building or renovating, include built-in storage spaces wherever possible. This window seat in a house designed by John Smillie Architects has deep drawers so that children's toys, books and magazines can be tidied away in a trice. Plus it's a great spot to relax and enjoy the view. ▷



ADJUSTABLE LIGHTING

Stylish and practical lighting makes all the difference. This silver antique adjustable floor lamp, R4 995, from Weylandts, can be tilted for reading, watching TV or creating ambience.



CLEVER CUPBOARDS

Invest in well-designed cupboards where you can see everything at a glance, like this shoe cupboard installed by MSM Kitchens.

SIMPLE SLIPCOVERS

One of the most useful decorating tools, slipcovers can make ugly chairs look elegant and formal sofas comfortable and inviting. And on the practical side, you don't have to eschew light fabrics or ban children and pets from living areas. Simply pop the covers in the wash the minute they start looking grubby. Just make sure the fabric is washable and pre-shrunk before it's made up.



SEATING WITH STORAGE

Stash quilts and cushions in an ottoman at the end of your bed. It also makes a comfortable seat when you're putting on your shoes. Kelly ottoman and storage chest, R2 995, from Block & Chisel. ▷





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BUILT-IN BASKET

Picking up towels and clothing in the bathroom is a thing of the past with a built-in laundry basket. "And it doesn't take up floor space," says designer Cara Slater-Middlewick.



EASY ACCESS

Keep on top of admin by adding a desk space to your kitchen. You can catch up on e-mails and banking while cooking the dinner. Decor by Suttie & Marais Designs.



MINI MUD ROOM

Establish a place near the entrance for outdoor clothing, hats and boots so that you can always find your umbrella, coat and the car keys. Decor by Heather Welham of Portfolio Interiors.

SOURCES **@home** home.co.za **Belgotex Floors** belgotexfloors.co.za **Block & Chisel** blockandchisel.co.za **By Dezign Interiors** bydezign.co.za **Cara Slater Architectural Design and Decor** caraslaterdesigns.com **Changing Spaces** changingspaces.co.za **John Smillie Architects** johnsmilliearchitects.com or 031 312 1523 **Kitchen Classics** kitchenclassics.co.za **Milestone Kitchens** milestonekitchens.co.za **MSM Kitchens** 021 863 4433 **Portfolio Interiors** Heather Welham 083 443 0339 **Suttie & Marais Designs** sutmar@mweb.co.za **Vintage Vista** vintagevista.co.za **Weylandts** weylandts.co.za

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Wood WORKS

Designers are using wood in clever new ways to add contemporary accents to classic spaces

◀ HEADS UP

Instead of a traditional headboard, French oak cladding was used behind this bed to add a contemporary feel to the classic decor. "If you want to do something similar, use engineered timber panels rather than solid wood, as wood expands and contracts according to the temperature," says interior architectural designer Cara Slater-Middlewick.

▼ SHELF LIFE

Resembling a piece of sculpture, this 'Pick Up Sticks' shelf by local furniture designer James Mudge is right at home in this industrial-style house in Welgemoed, Cape Town. "The warmth of the wood contrasts beautifully against the concrete walls," says interior designer Marcelle Crowther of Hocus Interior Design Studio. "It's contemporary yet timeless."



COMPILED BY **CANDICE BOTHA** AND **CATHERINE ZACHARIOU**
PHOTOGRAPHS **LAR RATTRAY** AND **HENRIQUE WILDING**



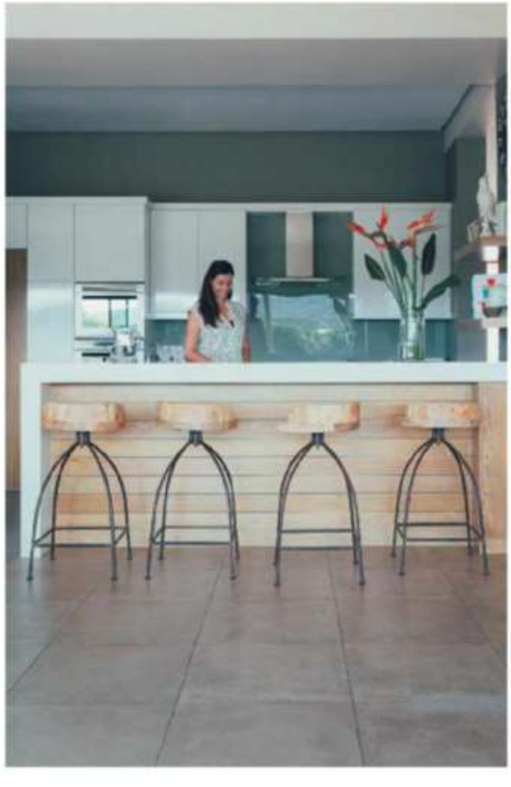
▲ A STEP UP

Vertical timber slats make a stylish alternative to a hand rail and add a striking feature to staircases. This one was designed by Cara Slater-Middlewick.



▲ BAR NONE

To update an old-fashioned bar, Durban designer Marian Nazar painted the counter and the wall-mounted shelf a glossy white. She enhanced the whole effect by covering the wall behind in timber cladding.



▶ COUNTER OFFER

"Timber is neutral without being boring," says Cara Slater-Middlewick, who used horizontal cladding on this kitchen counter. "It's eco-friendly and was more cost effective to use a veneer rather than solid timber in this instance." ▷



▲ THE BIG SCREEN

To satisfy his clients' different tastes (his is textured, hers romantic), Jacob Crafford-Burger of Kojabu Interiors clad a section of the wall in their TV room with rustic planks salvaged from a nearby farm. By taking it all the way to the ceiling, the eye is drawn upwards, accentuating the height of the room. On a practical side, wood doesn't conduct heat, so it's ideal for a TV wall. "The texture and warmth of wood is amazing, especially when paired with a roaring fire," says Jacob.



▲ THE GREAT DIVIDE

Marcelle Crowther of Hocus Interior Design Studio created this petal shelving unit, which acts as a book shelf and a division between the study and entrance hall. "When using wood as a decor tool, limit the different types and shades of wood," she advises.

▶ FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Instead of tiles and glass in the kitchen, consider wood as cladding. It complements all kitchen styles from contemporary to farmhouse. It does, however, need to be sealed if it's placed near a sink. Kitchen by Holly Wood Kitchens and Furniture.



SOURCES **Cara Slater Architectural Design and Decor** caraslaterdesigns.com **Hocus Interior Design Studio** hocus.co.za **Holly Wood Kitchens and Furniture** hollywoodfurniture.co.za **James Mudge** jamesmudge.com **Kojabu Interiors** kojabu.co.za **Marian Nazar Interiors** 082 434 7255

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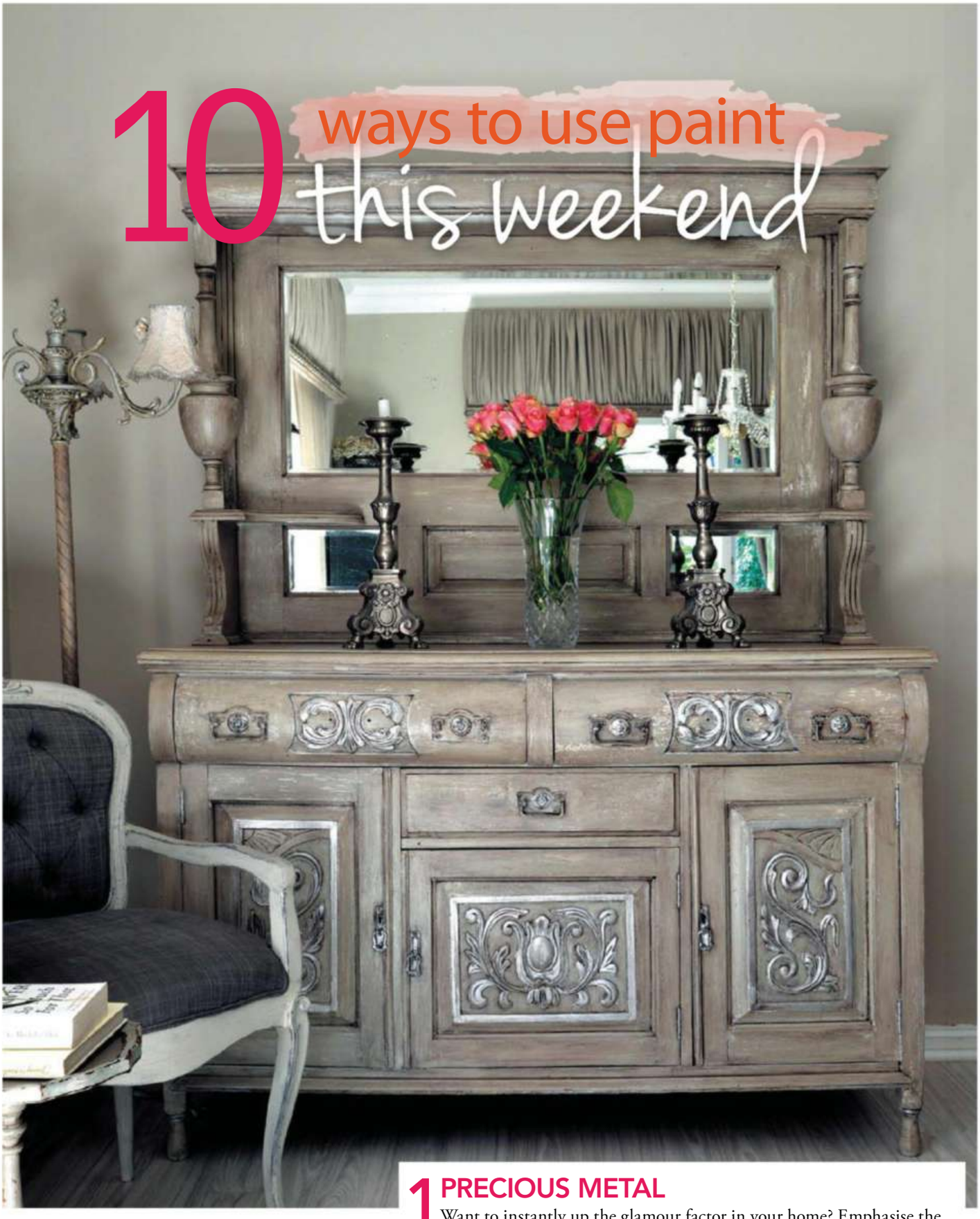
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10 ways to use paint this weekend



Whether it's a mini spruce-up or a major makeover, paint is one of the easiest ways to update your home

1 PRECIOUS METAL

Want to instantly up the glamour factor in your home? Emphasise the detailing on a piece of furniture with metallic paint or wax, which reflect light and give it a more luxurious feel. Paint effect by So Us.

TOP TIP: Make sure you pick the right paint. Translucent metallic paint works best for painting over an already painted dresser, while opaque paints will give you a brushed metal finish. This is often best left to the experts. Try water-based Plascon Paint Effects in gold, silver, bronze or pearl.

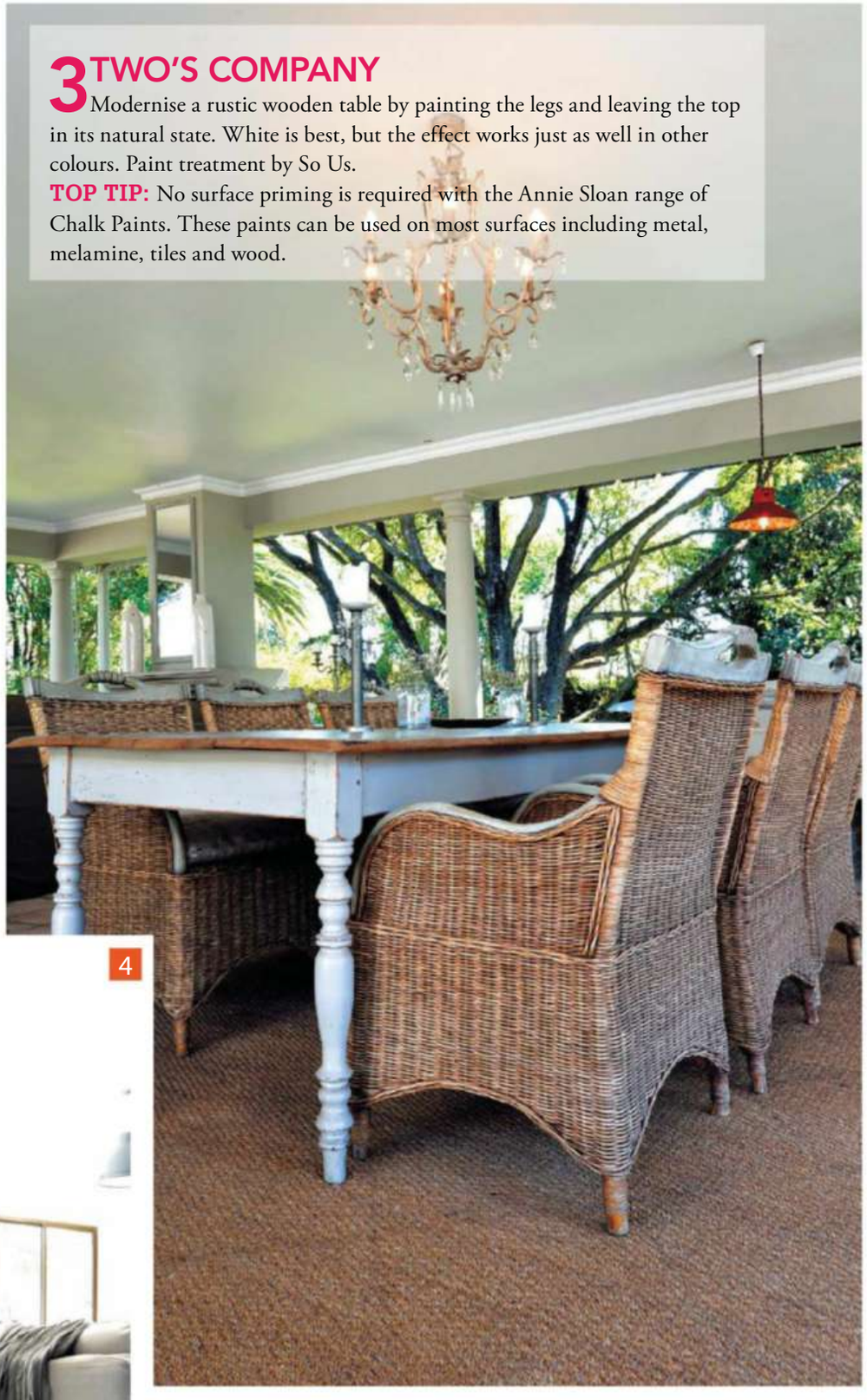
COMPILED BY **GINA WALDMAN-BALKIND** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANDREA CALDWELL**



2 DRESSED TO GRILL

Concrete built-in braais tend to look dull and basic. Give them a bit more style and incorporate them into your patio scheme by painting them in a neutral colour. Before painting, use Plascon Concrete Floor Prep. Here a soft wash blends the cooking area with the shabby chic look of the rest of the patio. Paint effect by So Us.

TOP TIP: Add detail to cupboards with decorative mouldings, available at hardware stores.



3 TWO'S COMPANY

Modernise a rustic wooden table by painting the legs and leaving the top in its natural state. White is best, but the effect works just as well in other colours. Paint treatment by So Us.

TOP TIP: No surface priming is required with the Annie Sloan range of Chalk Paints. These paints can be used on most surfaces including metal, melamine, tiles and wood.



4 FULL OF CHARACTER

Give your kitchen a French industrial feel by painting a piece of furniture a charcoal shade and personalising it with a vintage inspired stencilled detail. Paint effect by So Us.

TOP TIP: Before painting metal items, check for rust. If there's rust present, paint the affected areas with a converter like Plascon's Metalcare Rust Converter & Primer. ▷



5 MIRROR MIRROR

Stuck with outdated gilt-framed mirrors? Update them with a coat of chalky neutral-coloured paint. This one was painted by So Us.

TOP TIP: If you have a collection of different sized mirrors, paint the frames the same colour and group them together. Annie Sloan Chalk Paint works well on gilt frames as it clings to most surfaces without priming.



6 IT'S A WHITEWASH

Facebrick not your style? Soften its appearance with whitewash. Dilute white PVA paint (one part paint to one part water), so it's quite watery. Dab the mixture over the brick surface with a brush and wipe immediately with a rag to catch the drips. Paint treatment by So Us.

TOP TIP: This can get messy, so cover the floor and surrounding area with drop cloths.



7 STENCIL STYLE

Use stencils to replicate the effect of expensive wallpaper with very little outlay. This takes a bit of effort, so it's ideal for small spaces like powder rooms. Practise on a piece of board first to get the hang of it, and keep the stencil in place with non-permanent spray glue so it doesn't slip. The best results are achieved with a chunky stencil brush and metallic wax. Paint effect by Interior Wall Creations.

TOP TIP: Leave at least 24 hours between painting the base coat and starting to stencil. The Stencil Company in Cape Town stocks a wide range of decor stencils. ▷







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8 EARN YOUR STRIPES

Painting stripes on a wall is a clever way to add interest to a room while still keeping the look clean and uncluttered. First paint the wall a base colour and let it dry for at least 24 hours. Then divide the wall into equal stripes using a pencil and a steel ruler. Use a spirit level to ensure they are straight. Using masking tape, tape off the lighter sections before painting the contrasting stripes. Wall treatment by Interior Wall Creations.

TOP TIP: Vertical stripes make the ceiling appear higher, while horizontal stripes make a room feel more spacious.



9 PERSONAL STYLE

By painting simple items like a basin stand and a medicine cabinet, you can easily create a bathroom that reflects your personality. These were painted by So Us.

TOP TIP: Lightly sand furniture after painting to give it a rustic country look.



10 GOOD AS NEW

Give an old chair a new lease on life with a fresh coat of paint. If it's upholstered in places, remove the fabric in that area before painting, or protect it with masking tape and plastic. Painting by Interior Wall Creations.

TOP TIP: This works especially well on wicker and old ball-and-claw chairs, but make sure the item you're painting isn't an expensive antique as it could lose its value. GH

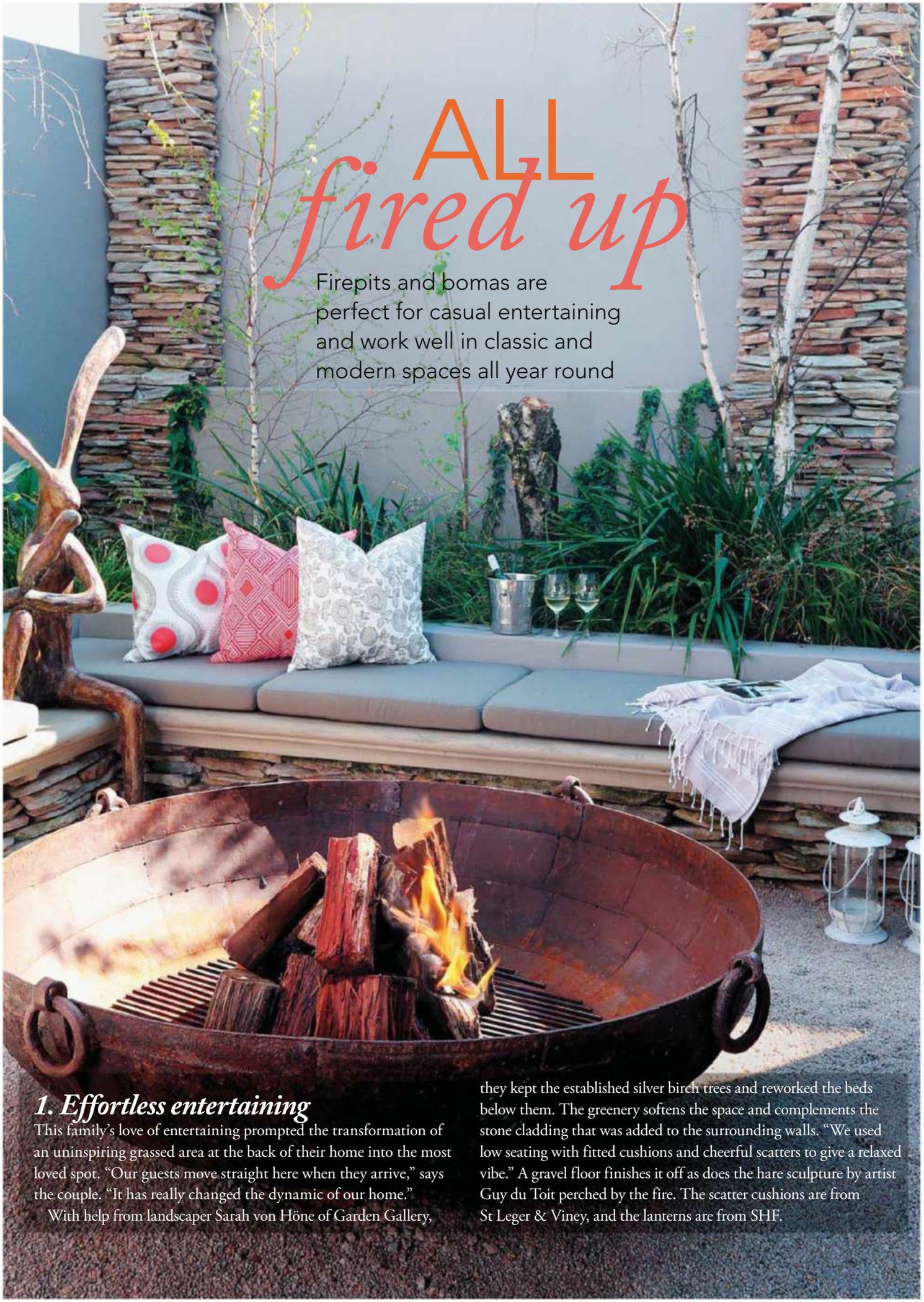
SOURCES **Annie Sloan** anniesloansa.co.za **Interior Wall Creations** 011 483 3122 or sandra@wallcreations.co.za **Plascon** plascon.co.za **So Us** 082 413 1116 **The Stencil Company** 021 783 0086 or thestencilcompany.net



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ALL *fired up*

Firepits and bomas are perfect for casual entertaining and work well in classic and modern spaces all year round

1. Effortless entertaining

This family's love of entertaining prompted the transformation of an uninspiring grassed area at the back of their home into the most loved spot. "Our guests move straight here when they arrive," says the couple. "It has really changed the dynamic of our home."

With help from landscaper Sarah von Höne of Garden Gallery, they kept the established silver birch trees and reworked the beds below them. The greenery softens the space and complements the stone cladding that was added to the surrounding walls. "We used low seating with fitted cushions and cheerful scatters to give a relaxed vibe." A gravel floor finishes it off as does the hare sculpture by artist Guy du Toit perched by the fire. The scatter cushions are from St Leger & Viney, and the lanterns are from SHF.

TEXT **CANDICE BOTHA, LYNNE YATES, NATALIE BORUVKA, CONNALL OOSTERBROOK, JO TRAPPITT** AND **CATHERINE ZACHARIOU**
PHOTOGRAPHS **LAR RATTRAY, KARL ROGERS, CONNALL OOSTERBROOK, ELMARIE KNAPTON, HENRIQUE WILDING** AND **SUPPLIED**


2

2. Strong viewpoint

The challenge when designing this firepit at the top of Northcliff ridge in Jo'burg was to make the most of the incredible view. "It was originally a gravelled Zen garden that proved impossible to keep tidy," explains Craig de Necker of The Friendly Plant.

"To transform it into a curved firepit with seating, we used pavers as a wall capping around the old pond and to clad the seating area. As this space can be viewed from the rooftop patio of the house, our geometry had to be perfect," he says.

Craig positioned the firepit to face the view and created access from the side rather than from the front. "To provide some shelter, we built an overhead structure with a steel frame and cantilevered timber slats."

The surrounding plants – dietes, agapanthus, hebes and bergenia – add a lush feel all year round and soften the paving. Now the owners can use it to entertain or unwind at the end of the day.

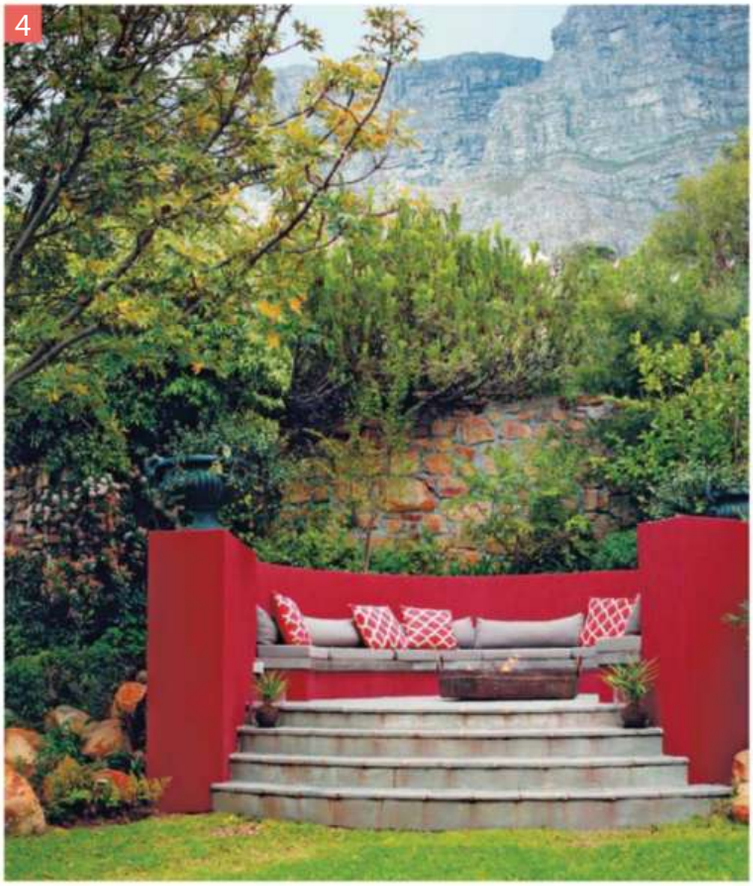
3. Teen dream

To make this sloping Jo'burg garden more user friendly, Debbie Smit of Foxgloves Landscaping created a series of level areas using retaining walls. This firepit on the lowest level was designed with teenagers in mind. When their parents entertain, the kids can now hang out in an area away from the older folk. The gravel base allows water to drain easily and the logs used as seating were brought in from the owners' farm in Limpopo.


3

4. Hot hang-out

Although many firepits are sunken, consider building a raised version like this one designed by Red Daffodil at MannaBay, a boutique hotel in Cape Town. Position it so that you have a good view over the garden. ▷


4

TIPS FOR THE PERFECT FIREPIT

- Bomas and firepits should preferably be in a quiet and protected area of your garden, away from trees and boundary walls.
- A built-in drain is essential to stop rainwater building up in the firepit and makes it easier to wipe the ash away.
- Ensure the scale is in proportion to the rest of your garden.
- To provide an intimate amphitheatre-style feel, plant densely around the boma or sink it below ground level.
- Keep the space natural by using raw materials such as wood, stone, paving and gravel in the design.
- If you're limited by space or budget, free-standing fire baskets are great options and you can take them with you if you move.



5. What a gas

When Natalie and James Knight first stepped out onto the roof terrace of their home in Oranjezicht, Cape Town, they were bowled over by the magnificent mountain backdrop. "Our immediate thought was how great it would be to sit out here around a fire and watch movies against that vista," recalls Natalie.

The Knights asked Danela Conti Bryant of Resort Lifestyle to assist with the design. "We wanted the firepit to have a classical feel in keeping with the style of house," says Natalie. "Its position makes the most of the mountain views and on nights when we want to watch movies, we can project them onto a screen against the perimeter wall."

Before building, the existing roof garden had to be removed as it was causing a damp problem in the cottage below. "Artificial grass offered a practical, low-maintenance solution," says Jeremy Killian of Natures Blueprint, who managed the installation.

The Knights opted for a gas pit for two reasons: to avoid hauling wood up the stairs, and to prevent ash blowing when the wind picks up. "All we have to do for instant atmosphere is lift a lid and flick a switch," says Natalie.



6. Practical magic

This firepit at the KZN North Coast home of Cara Slater-Middlewick and her husband Greg is a cosy entertaining area. "Sinking it into the ground makes it feel intimate and encourages guests to relax," says Cara, an interior architectural designer. "All you need to make the space really inviting is comfortable cushions and blankets for cooler evenings."

Greg and Cara put practical considerations first when it came to the design. The benches open up to reveal storage space, brick lights provide soft lighting on the stairs and below the seating, and the fire is contained by a large solid steel dish with a hole in the centre, where ash can be washed out down a drain into the garden below. Greg also ensured the stairs didn't lead directly towards the pit to prevent anyone accidentally falling into the fire.

The loose stones on the floor, which cover a concrete slab, were chosen for their natural colour and for safety – they don't heat up.

Using the same balau decking that's around the pool created a seamless, welcoming flow between these areas in addition to being a practical, durable material that ages well.

SOURCES **Cara Slater Architectural Design and Decor** caraslaterdesigns.com **Colonial Stone** colonial-stone.co.za **Foxgloves Landscaping** 083 449 7048 **Garden Gallery** gardengallery.co.za **Guy Du Toit** guydutoit.everard-read.co.za **MannaBay** mannabay.com **Natures Blueprint Horticultural Services** naturesblueprint.co.za or 072 743 9008 **Red Daffodil** reddaffodil.co.za **Resort Lifestyle** resortlifestyle.co.za **SHF** shf.co.za **St Leger & Viney** stleger.co.za **The Friendly Plant** 082 805 0910 or thefriendlyplant.co.za

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▼ Cool as ice

Keep drinks cool with the (1) Keter Coolbar in black, R1 299, Makro, (2) footed drinks cooler, R1 150, Woolworths, or the (3) galvanised ice bucket with scoop, R179,99, Mr Price Home.



▲ CROWD PLEASER

Both practical and stylish, this outdoor living area, designed by architect Kevin Lloyd, is ideal for entertaining a crowd. It features built-in seating on which interior designer Ruth Duke added piped cushions. Pale wooden decking is soft underfoot and doesn't heat up. The timber overhead screening is almost sculptural and provides dappled shade. The artificial lawn keeps things cool and never needs mowing.



▲ Help yourself

Set out food and crockery buffet-style so everyone can help themselves. Place cutlery in interesting containers and tealight holders among the plates and glasses to add a festive feel, as designer Tanja Beyers did here.

COMPILED BY **JO TRAPPITT, CANDICE BOTHA, CATHERINE ZACHARIOU** AND **MARY JANE HARRIS** PHOTOGRAPHS **LAR RATTRAY, HENRIQUE WILDING, ANDREA CALDWELL, CHRISTOPH HOFFMANN, HEMA PATEL** AND **SUPPLIED**
PRODUCTS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND PRICES WERE CHECKED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. SEE PAGE 6.

Comfort zone

Add loads of colourful cushions to chairs and seating. All cushions pictured here are in Endless Summer outdoor fabric from Hertex. Photographed at Debbie O'Flaherty's Let's Celebrate studio.





▲ In the mood

Create after-dark ambience with lanterns and hurricanes. (1) Copper framed lanterns, R880 each, Inspirations. (2) Eos hurricane lamp by Tribu, POR, Marlanteak. (3) Solar lantern jar, R155, Consol. ▷

WIN!
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▶ COOL STOOLS

Use stools as drinks and snacks tables or extra seating. (1) Whitewash drum stool, R2 200, La Grange Interiors. (2) Ohio stool, R1 295, Coricraft.





▲ Sail away

One of the easiest ways to cool down outdoor living areas is with sails in weatherproof fabric that blocks most of the UV rays. These ones from Sunsails come in different sizes and can be suspended from walls, roofs and even floors, and moved around with the sun. Similar sails are available from Coolaroo. Scatter cushions from Mavromac.



▲ Good vibrations

Invest in outdoor speakers to set the mood, like the (1) JBL GO speaker in orange, R499, Hirsch's, (2) Beach Sounds Sunnylife speaker in turquoise, R699, Superbalist.com, or the (3) Harman Kardon Go & Play wireless docking station, R4 999, Makro.

▼ Buzz off

Dot citronella candles around your outdoor area to discourage mozzies. (1) Republic Umbrella citronella bucket candle, R69, Makro. (2) Peaceful Summer citronella candle, R185, SoyLites.



▼ Turn up the heat

Create a cosy atmosphere on colder evenings with a fire basket like this (1) contemporary firepit, R5 995, Weylandts, (2) a Terrace Leisure Basilica fire basket, R499, Makro, or (3) a ceramic firepit, R3 450 (excl. delivery), Earthfire.



▶ Cover up

Keep food fly-free with basket food covers, from R295 for lid and base, SANTOS. GH



SOURCES **Consol** consol.co.za **Coolaroo** coolaroo.co.za **Coricraft** coricraft.co.za **Earthfire** earthfire.co.za **Hertex** hertex.co.za **Hirsch's** hirschs.co.za **Inspirations** 011 646 0527 **Kevin Lloyd Architects** 031 764 7535 **La Grange Interiors** lagrangeinteriors.co.za **Let's Celebrate** letscelebrate.co.za **Makro** makro.co.za **Marlanteak** marlanteak.com **Mavromac** mavromac.co.za **Mr Price Home** mrphome.com **Ruth Duke Interior Design** 082 928 2277 **SANTOS** santos.co.za **SoyLites** soylites.co.za **Sunsails** sunsails.co.za **Superbalist.com** superbalist.com **Tanja Beyers** 011 234 1306 **Weylandts** weylandts.co.za **Woolworths** woolworths.co.za



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Bar trolleys are this summer's must-have accessory for stylish entertaining



Trolley, R2 495, Trade Secret.



Drinks trolley, R2 000, Mr Price Home.



Gent metal trolley, R6 995, Block & Chisel.



Server trolley in oak with toughened glass shelves, R4 990, LIM.



Neutra trolley in black, from R19 060, Marlanteak.

STYLING AND TEXT **JO TRAPPITT** PHOTOGRAPHS **CHRISTOPH HOFFMAN** AND **SUPPLIED** PRODUCTS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND PRICES WERE CHECKED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. SEE PAGE 6.

How to style your bar trolley

- Display attractive bottles, glasses and cocktail shakers.
- Add a pop of colour with a pot plant or fresh flowers.
- Use trays to neatly organise items.
- Include books on your favourite cocktails and add a bowl of lemons or limes.
- Group together bottles and cans for instant effect.



Raskog trolley in turquoise, R1 799, Nevada Furniture.

Executive drinks trolley, R4 499, @home.



Bar cart, R9 800, Dark Horse.

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SOURCES **@home** home.co.za **Block & Chisel** blockandchisel.co.za **Dark Horse** dark-horse.co.za **LIM** lim.co.za **Marlanteak** marlanteak.com **Mr Price Home** mrphome.com **Nevada Furniture** nevadafurniture.co.za **Trade Secret** trade-secret.co.za

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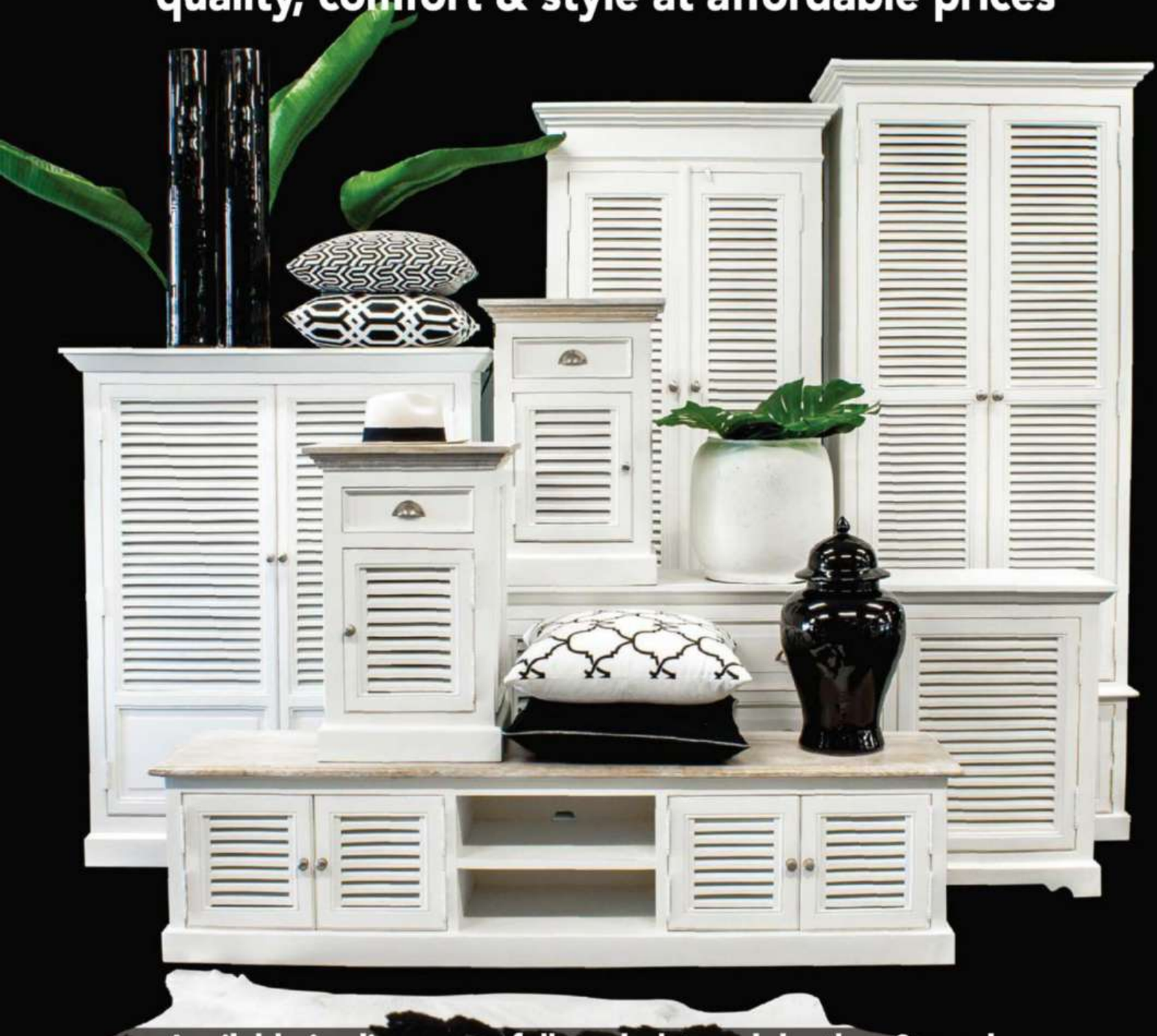
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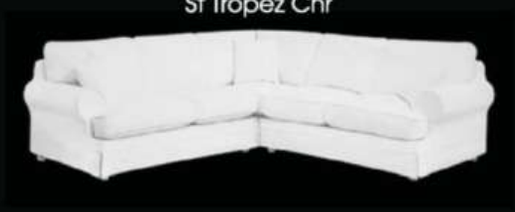


From: R5995 (fabric)
Size: 225x75x85



St Tropez - From: R5995 (fabric), R11,595 (leather), Size from: 80x98x200

St Tropez Cnr



From: R12,995 (fabric), R26,995 (leather)
Size from: 285x285

Chivonne mini Cnr



From: R11,995 (fabric), R21,995 (leather)
Size from: 210x190

Georgia Cnr



From: R12,495 (fabric), R 25,995 (leather)
Size from: 280x280

Duchess



From: R5395 (fabric)
Size from: 90x150x185

New Yorker All Seater



From: R13,995 (fabric), R25,995 (leather)
Size from: 300x300x660

Bellini



From: R5595 (fabric), R10,995 (leather)
Size from: 185x98x80

Shé



From: R7595 (fabric), R12,995 (leather)
Size from: 205x85x90

Caribbean Cnr



From: R10,995 (fabric)
Size from: 300x150x80

Tina



From: R4995 (fabric), R10,995 (leather)
Size from: 75x95x190

Albany Dining Table



From: R13,995(Solid Oak)
Size: 240x100x75

Bentley Dining



From: R2195 (fabric)
R3495 (leather)

Crossback Dining



Price: R895
natural, white, grey

Branson Dining



Price: R1985

Newton Dining Table



Price: R8995 (Solid Mango wood)
Size: 240x100x67

Cool and CALM



Interior designer Lisa Swart turned an outdated family bathroom into a contemporary space



"THIS BATHROOM IS located in the centre of this Jo'burg home, and the only light came through a tiny window overlooking a small courtyard off the pantry. It had seriously old-fashioned tiles and fittings, and was very dark. The built-in bath took up a lot of space resulting in a clumsy layout," says Lisa Swart of Oksijen Interiors.

HOW THIS SPACE WENT FROM DRAB TO FAB:

The room was gutted, which involved removing the shower, vanity and built-in cupboards. "There was no ceiling above the cupboards, so Legacy Pressed Ceilings custom matched a section," she explains.

ABOVE: A bath from Bathroom Fusion takes centre stage and a frameless shower was incorporated on the right. The floor tiles are from Bathroom Bizarre and the metro tiles are from Douglas Jones. The upper section was painted with Plascon's Elephant.
INSET: Interior designer Lisa Swart of Oksijen Interiors.

TEXT **NATALIE BORUVKA**
PHOTOGRAPHS **CHRISTOPH HOFFMANN**









Large floor tiles were laid, and to break the height of the walls, Lisa painted the upper section and clad the lower in white metro tiles. "With the resulting 16m², we had space for a freestanding bath and an outsized frameless shower," says Lisa.

The small window was replaced with steel-framed doors leading onto the courtyard. The door to the pantry was closed up and shelves for plants were mounted on the walls. "What was previously an unsightly space, is now a light and airy oasis, offering a pretty view when relaxing in the bath," says Lisa.

During the gutting process, a wall that partially obstructed the entrance was removed, making space for the antique chest of drawers, which was transformed into a vanity. "I love that this piece is a nod to the heritage of the home and contrasts with the bathroom's contemporary look," she says.

"NOW THIS BATHROOM IS the bright and happy space my clients had in mind. While it meets the needs of a modern family, it also complements the traditional style of the home," says Lisa.

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ● Lisa found the chest of drawers at Barter Buy Antiques in Kensington and fitted it with a washbasin from Bathroom Fusion. ● Lisa had the metal-frame doors custom made by Pazz Design. The side tables are from Coricraft. ● Victorian-inspired wall lights from Streamlight are in keeping with the style of the house.

SOURCES **Barter Buy Antiques** barterbuyantiques.co.za **Bathroom Bizarre** bathroom.co.za **Bathroom Fusion** winterburns.co.za **Coricraft** coricraft.co.za **Douglas Jones** douglasjones.co.za **Legacy Pressed Ceilings** legacypressedceilings.co.za **Oksijen Interiors** oksijen.co.za **Pazz Design** pasclassic.co.za **Plascon** plascon.co.za **Streamlight** 011 440 4142

DIY in a morning





Tray CHIC

Lyrene Zimmerman of INCdecor transforms an ordinary tray into a tea-time treat



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A wooden tray
- 80-grit sandpaper
- A clean dusting cloth
- Paintbrushes
- Water-based universal undercoat
- Water-based paint in the colour of your choice
- Fabric of your choice
- Fabric scissors
- 3mm glass cut to size (I used Ideal Glass & Mirror in Jo'burg)

HOW TO DO IT

1. Sand down the tray thoroughly, making sure any previously applied varnish or paint is smooth.
2. Wipe the tray with a clean, dry cloth to remove sanding dust.
3. Apply one coat of universal undercoat and allow to dry completely.
4. Apply two coats of your chosen paint. I used water-based Mid from the INCdecor Reds paint range.
5. Measure and cut the fabric according to the size of the inside of the tray. I chose Stripe from the INCdecor Reds fabric range.
6. Fit the piece of glass inside the tray. The weight of the glass will keep the fabric protected and in place.

SOURCES Ideal Glass & Mirror idealglass.co.za **Inc Decor** incdecor.com

TEXT **LYRENE ZIMMERMAN** STYLING **JO TRAPPITT** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANDREA CALDWELL** AND **HEMA PATEL**



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Tropical PUNCH

Pair lush greenery and metallic touches to create a stylish table for summer celebrations





TEXT **CANDICE BOTHA** PHOTOGRAPHS **SALLY CHANCE** AND **SUPPLIED** PRODUCTS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND PRICES WERE CHECKED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. SEE PAGE 6.



Bistro **chair**, from R1 290, Garden Bleu.



Heritage Mix **tile**, R398, WOMAG.



Gold **cutlery**, R199 for four pieces, Nicolson Russell.



Olive blue **bottle**, R1 395, La Grange Interiors.



Mandore **lantern**, small, R695, Coricraft.



Two-tone, aged iron and brass **vase**, R495, Weylandts.



Taya fig **candle**, R299, Woolworths.



Zondi **dining table**, from R11 600, Homewood.

Bronze ceramic **vase**, R575, Vintage Vista.



GET THE LOOK

Kim Roberts of Crystal & Vine, Speciality Decor Rental and Styling shares her tips:

- Keep the wooden table bare to show off its beautiful patina and provide a link with the natural surrounds.
- Use something unique as placemats. I chose two different tiles as their subtle blue patterns echo the encaustic tiles common in old Durban homes and enhance the colonial feel of the table setting.
- Add metallic elements like the votives, gold-rimmed plates and gold cutlery for a sense of grandeur.
- Decorate the table with unusual plants and quirky vases. Here, deep-green foliage in interesting vessels, one of which is an old light fitting found at a charity shop, looks fresh and summery.
- Use what you have. It's amazing how many things you have lying around at home that work well together. The blue bottle, marble board and lantern were all elements I had already and the foliage came from the garden.

SOURCES **Coricraft** coricraft.co.za **Crystal & Vine, Speciality Decor Rental and Styling** crystalandvine.co.za **Garden Bleu** gardenbleu.co.za **Homewood** homewood.co.za **La Grange Interiors** lagrangeinteriors.co.za **Nicolson Russell** nicolsonrussell.com **Vintage Vista** vintagevista.co.za **Weylandts** weylandts.co.za **WOMAG** womag.co.za **Woolworths** woolworths.co.za

Annual RETURNS

An overgrown garden in Inanda, Jo'burg, was cut back and reshaped to make way for new colour and foliage



TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS **LOREN SHIRLEY-CARR**





Who lives here

A well-travelled couple with a large extended family.

The garden

A lush garden filled with shade-loving shrubs and annuals.

Having lived on the property for more than three decades, the owners decided it was time to give their overgrown garden an overhaul. "It had simply grown with the family, and as so often happens with these older properties, you eventually can't see the wood for the trees," says Jo'burg landscaper Karen Gardelli, who was asked to manage the project.

The owner also expressed a desire to colour the dull spots of her green and shrubby garden with a mass of flowers that she could pick for her home.

"We started by cutting back dense trees that blocked the sunlight and restricted airflow," explains Karen. "Once we'd reduced the height of the trees and removed those that had become overcrowded, we cut down the rambling creepers, some of which engulfed whole trees, to bring light and create more space."

The next challenge was to level the garden as the property sloped quite drastically from the swimming pool to the neighbouring wall. To do this, topsoil and compost were brought in and shaped into berms to level it out. A frame was then formed around the garden's perimeter using a variety of small trees, including leopard trees, as well as shrubs and tree ferns (*Cyathea australis* and *Dicksonia antarctica*).

During the next phase, glorious hues were added with azaleas (large shrubs and standards), hydrangeas, gardenias, camellias, ▷

THIS SPREAD, CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: ● Masses of New Guinea impatiens provide welcoming colour at the entrance. ● A brick pathway curves around the side of the house under a canopy of drooping brugmansia flowers. ● A flagstone path draws the visitor through plantings of New Guinea impatiens, plectranthus, arums, tree ferns and *Acorus gramineus* 'Golden Edge' towards an archway planted with star jasmine.



Water splashes over a rocky precipice into a large koi pond.





THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: ● Masses of flowers in vibrant colours combined with a wide variety of foliage plants have totally transformed this garden into a welcoming haven. ● Tree ferns give the garden a lush, woodland feel. ● Flagstones edged with pebbles and dwarf mondo grass surround a concrete bench overlooking the swimming pool.



arums (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*), *Duranta* 'Sapphire Showers' standards and *Plectranthus* 'Mona Lavender'. A clever combination of foliage shape, size, texture and colour was achieved by incorporating *Nandina domestica*, *Dianella tasmanica* 'Variegata', *Schefflera arboricola* 'Variegata' and standards of bright *Duranta* 'Sheena's Gold'. "The main beds were lined with *Acorus gramineus* 'Golden Edge', while a mix of shade-loving New Guinea impatiens provides the pièce de résistance," says Karen.

A pathway of English flagstones and pebbles interplanted with dwarf mondo grass winds its way through this lush forest-like space to a bench overlooking the swimming pool. And around the side of the house, a canopy of orange moonflowers shades a brick pathway. This path leads to a koi pond with a rocky precipice at the entrance to the property. The pond was given a facelift with a frame of *Acorus gramineus* 'Golden Edge' and softened with plantings of *Nandina domestica* 'Pygmaea'.

Two existing acers were underplanted with masses of ferns and plectranthus. To lighten the area, an arch planted with star jasmine stands tall amongst the camellias, arums, gardenias, raphiolepis and masses of New Guinea impatiens. To provide vertical interest, several leopard trees were planted around the koi pond. "These bring a sense of mystery and a play of light on the water," says Karen.

As this area at the front of the house is the only sunny spot on the property, it was the ideal place to plant scented roses. Hybrid teas form part of a small rose bed and one of the owner's favourites, 'Deloitte & Touche', is a floriferous rose giving weeks of pleasure with continuous blooms – perfect for the vase.

The garden took Karen and her team three months to complete and it's now filled with blooms that have really given it new life. It's become a sanctuary for the homeowners, who travel for many months of the year and love returning to their colourful refuge. "This is a home in every sense of the word: warm, welcoming and always filled with family and friends. My greatest pleasure during the project was creating a garden to reflect this," says Karen.

SOURCE **Karen Gardelli** 082 745 2891





Ace of SHADES

New disease-resistant varieties and a modern approach to growing old favourites means impatiens are still the most colourful option for shady gardens

When downy mildew all but decimated bedding impatiens some five years ago, it left a massive gap in our gardens. Before then, impatiens was the fail-safe flower for shady areas, able to produce a swathe of colour that few other shade lovers could match.

The disease hasn't gone away, but there are new disease-resistant varieties and strategies for gardeners who still want that lavish effect.

IMPATIENS OF THE FUTURE

Interspecific crosses, which include downy mildew-resistant New Guinea impatiens in their genetic mix, are being heralded as the disease-free alternative for those who want masses of low, spreading colour. There are also New Guinea varieties that are bred to spread as landscape impatiens.

TEXT **ALICE SPENSER-HIGGS** PHOTOGRAPHS **ALICE SPENSER-HIGGS, BALL STRAATHOF, SAKATA-MAYFORD** AND **PETAL FAIRE**







INTERSPECIFIC IMPATIENS

● **Bounce** is a new series that spreads and mounds lower to the ground like the Super Elfin impatiens and has the same flowering habit. Plants grow 35–50cm high and wide, making them suitable for borders and edgings. Bounce 'Pink Flame' won a 2015 All-America Selections award and is available in cherry, lilac, violet and white versions. Its name comes from its ability to bounce back quickly from dry conditions with no burnt leaves or lost flowers.

● **Big Bounce** grows large like Sunpatiens, performing equally well in sun and shade. It's a bigger plant, growing 70cm high and 90cm wide, so fewer plants are needed to get a full effect. The mounded, ball-shaped plants have a high flower count and are also suitable for large containers.

● **Sunpatiens** was one of the first interspecific impatiens. It looks like New Guinea impatiens, but is able to grow in full sun as well as partial shade. Variations include a spreading type for landscapes that also looks good in containers and hanging baskets. The colour range is extensive. ▷

TOP TIP

The bedding plants group of SANA (SA Nursery Association) recommends planting bedding impatiens (*Impatiens walleriana*) as a short-season spring flower that's replaced in January with New Guinea impatiens, which will flower through to winter. The result: a continuous show of impatiens from spring to winter.

THIS SPREAD, CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: ● Impatiens Big Bounce 'White' and 'Lilac'. ● Super Elfin 'White', 'Violet', 'Blue Pearl', 'Deep Pink', 'Red', 'Melon', 'Cherry Splash' and 'Punch'. ● Big Bounce are bigger plants that produce a fuller effect with fewer plants. ● Sunpatiens grow in sun and shade and are ideal for natural gardens. ● Bounce 'Pink Flame' won an All-America Selections award.







NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS: SLOW STARTERS BUT A BIG SPLASH

If you want big, voluptuous colour, New Guinea impatiens are the plants, but they require patience. That's because they sit still in spring and early summer, only taking off when both day and night temperatures are warm, at least 15°C at night.

WHAT'S TO LIKE

- All New Guinea impatiens are completely downy mildew resistant.
- Plants are bigger than bedding impatiens with larger flowers and some varieties have bronze coloured leaves. Fewer plants are needed to fill the same space.
- They are showy pot plants and can also be grown in hanging baskets in semi-shade.
- They tolerate more sun, but their roots should never be allowed to dry out.

GROWING TIPS FOR NEW GUINEA IMPATIENS

- They like fertile alkaline soil that drains well. They don't do well in acid soil and shouldn't be mulched with bark chips or pine needles.
- For bushy plants, pinch off the growing tips during their early growing phase
- Feed them at least once a month with a liquid fertiliser such as Margaret Roberts Organic Supercharger.
- Avoid overhead watering and don't let the soil dry out or remain too wet. Plants that are too dry will drop their flowers and buds.

NEW GUINEA LANDSCAPE IMPATIENS

- **Divine** is a compact, quick growing series that comes in seedling trays in single colours or mixes that make a show, especially in a large bed. The popular 'Islander Mixture' combines 'Blue Pearl', 'White Blush' and 'Scarlet'.
- **Florific** offers very large flowers in clear shades of lavender, white, violet and red on compact, well-branched plants. Florific 'Sweet Orange' was an All American Selections bedding plant award winner in 2014.

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ● New Guinea Divine 'Pink'. ● Celebrette 'Appleblossom' is perfect for containers. ● Divine 'Islander Mixture'.





BUSY LIZZIES – GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

Starting with the bad news; no cure has yet been found for downy mildew. "Downy mildew is triggered when there's a rapid change in temperature," says Marlaen Straathof of Ball Straathof. "This occurs when hot humid days give way to cool nights because of long rainy spells.

"The good news is that downy mildew is less likely to occur in drier conditions, which means that impatiens (*Impatiens walleriana*) can be used as a quick colour crop to brighten up the garden from September to December, before the main rainy season in summer rainfall areas," says Marlaen. By applying the same logic in winter-rainfall areas, bedding impatiens can be planted later in the season when the rains taper off.

GROWING TIPS FOR BEDDING IMPATIENS

- Create the right micro-environment; not too shady, not too wet and not planted too close together.
- Water in the morning or early afternoon as wet leaves at night encourage fungal disease.
- Too much water and food can produce leafy plants at the expense of flowers. Reduce feeding if plants are getting too leafy.

Should plants become infected, Marlaen's advice is to pull them out and throw them away, but not on the compost heap.

While some gardeners report that their bedding impatiens last the entire season, there's no guarantee. "I think gardeners have begun to accept that impatiens today are a different product," says Marlaen.

More growers, however, are venturing back into bedding impatiens, which means that Super Elfin and Tempo impatiens are available once more for spring and summer planting.

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Super Elfin 'Cherry Splash'. Super Elfin 'Red Starburst'. *Impatiens madagascar*. *Impatiens arguta* 'Blue Dream'.

IMPATIENS FOR COLLECTORS

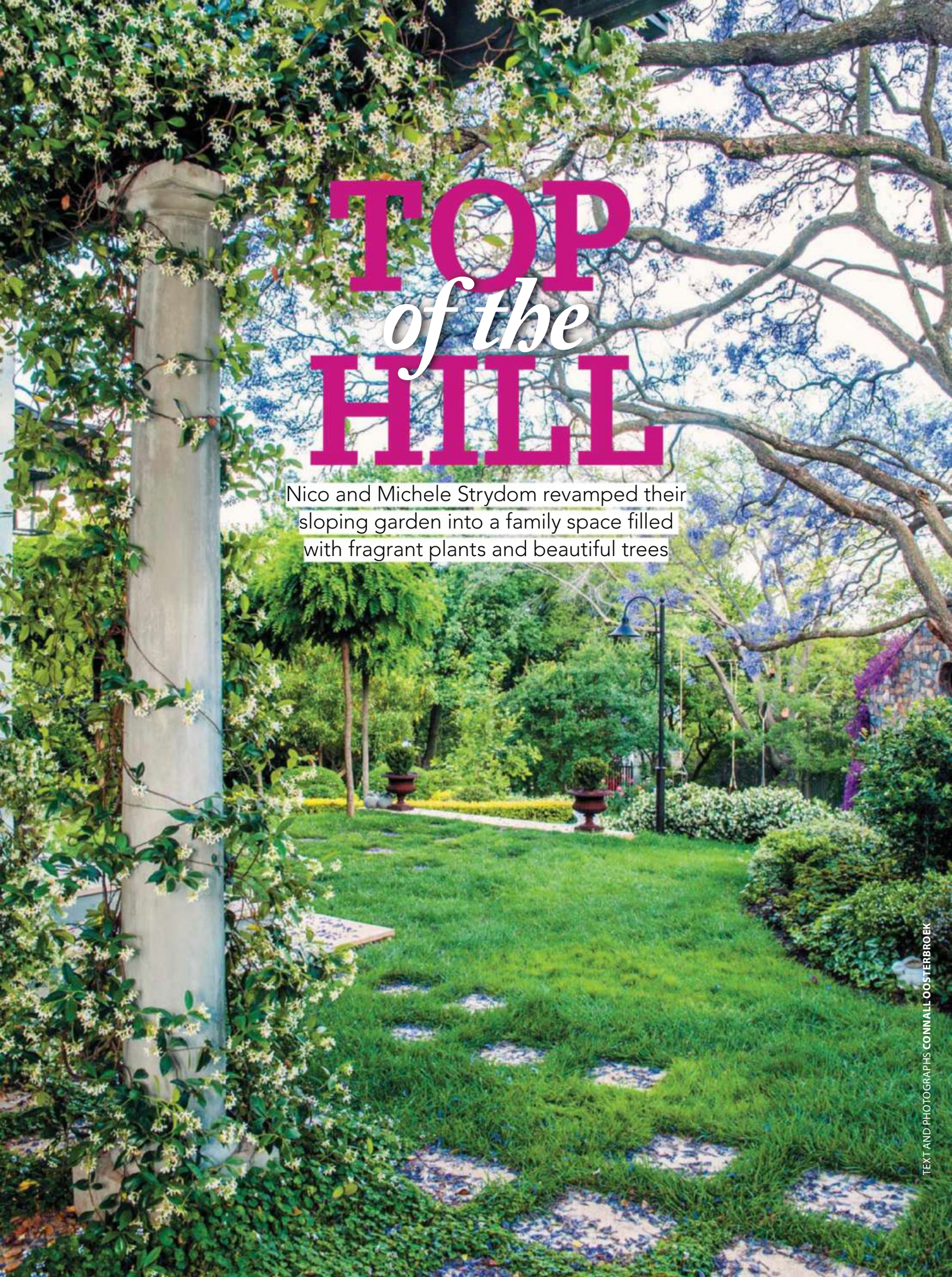
The attraction of *Impatiens* species is the difference in flower shapes and colours and their enormous variation in height and shape. Orange-flowered *I. madagascar* sp. (60cm high, upright and bushy) and the suckering groundcover, *Impatiens omeiana* with its creamy-yellow flowers, are favourites of Leoné Williams, whose impatiens collection at Petal Faire nursery in Pretoria includes rare African species.

Unlike the open-faced bedding impatiens, the flowers of these species are hooded, tubular or orchid-like. Another favourite is 'Blue Dream' impatiens (*I. arguta*), a fast-growing exotic perennial with tubular bluish lavender flowers. "It's one of the most heat tolerant of all impatiens," says Leoné. All of them are perennials and downy-mildew resistant, and like other impatiens, are natural border plants, growing best in shade and kept moist, but not too wet. Most importantly, cut them back in spring and again in February to keep them to size and prevent them from getting scraggly.





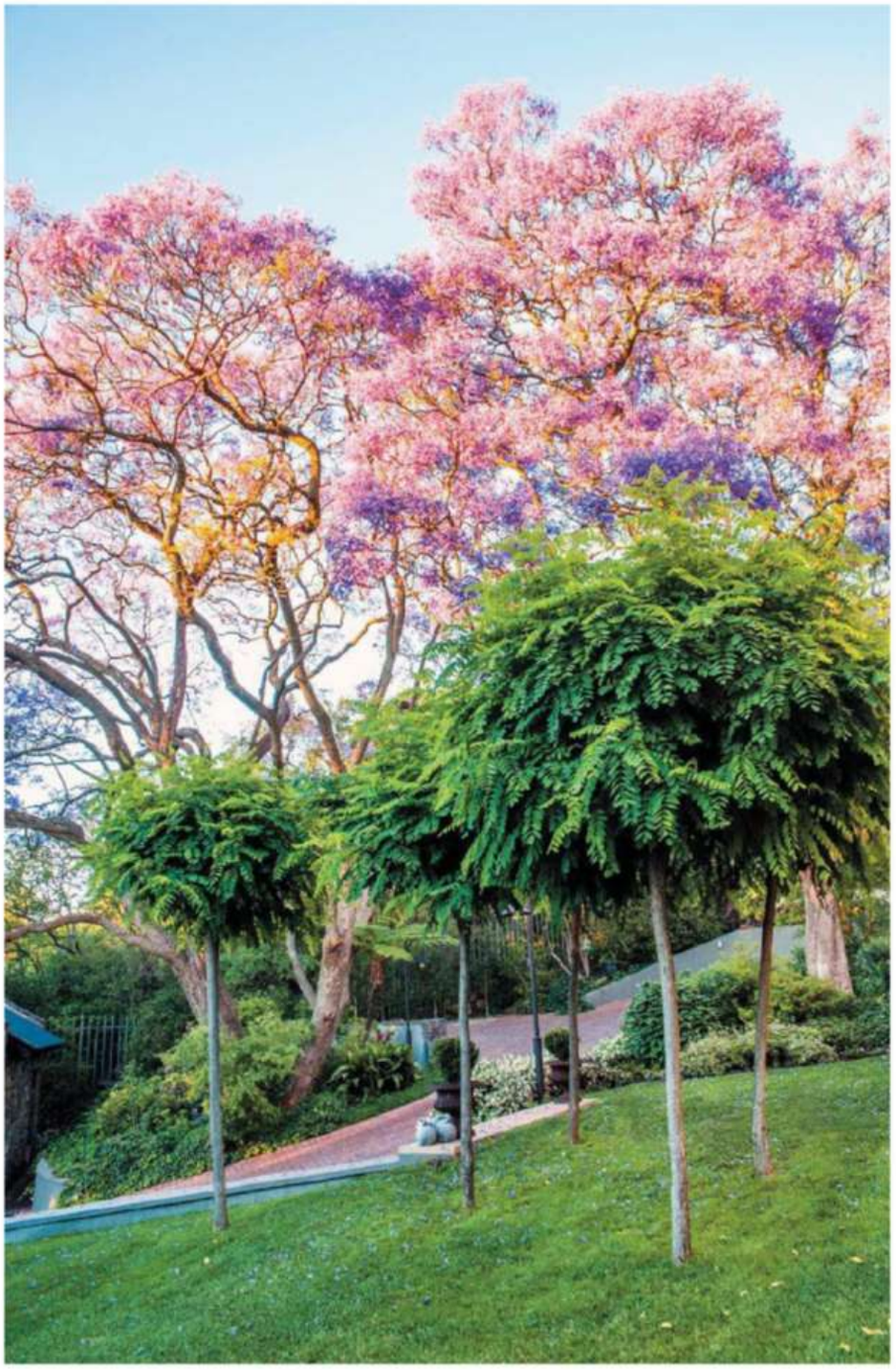
SOURCES **Ball Straathof** ballstraathof.co.za
Petal Faire 082 482 0257
SA Nursery Association sana.co.za



TOP *of the* HILL

Nico and Michele Strydom revamped their sloping garden into a family space filled with fragrant plants and beautiful trees

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS **CONNALL OOSTERBROEK**







Who lives here

Nico and Michele Strydom, their three daughters Isabella, Angelina and Nikita and their dogs Jake, Pepsi and Cooper.

The house

A 4 200m^2 garden situated on the east-facing side of a steep hill. It's divided into different sections for varying activities.

THIS SPREAD, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: ● All Seasons Evergreen and Shade-Over lawns were used throughout the garden. ● The *Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Inermis' (mop heads) are pruned every spring. ● At the top of the garden is a guest cottage and the herb and vegetable garden. ● Jake the sheepdog.

When Nico and Michele Strydom bought their property in Bryanston, Johannesburg, seven years ago, they knew they had their work cut out for them. Not only did the house need extensive renovations, the old-fashioned garden with its giant palms and round driveway needed a complete makeover.

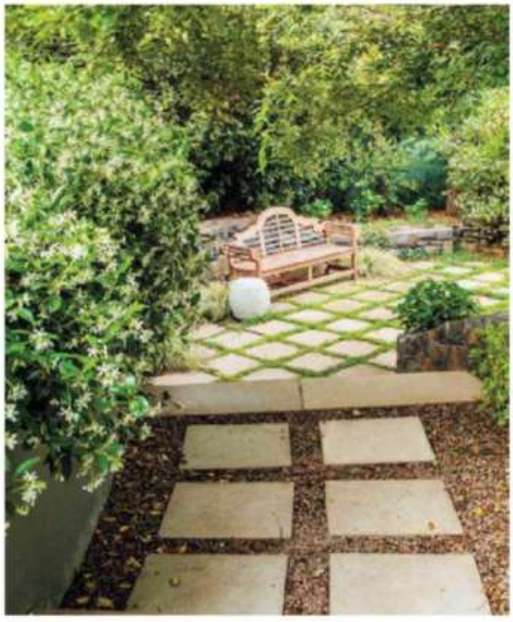
"I'm always up for a challenge and I knew, that with the help of my husband, and friend and landscaper Mary Ann Brews of Emay Gardens, we'd be able to create a garden perfect for our whole family," recalls Michele.

Mary Ann's input was vital in the redesign of the garden. "The first task was to remove tons of rubble, and as the property is on a steep slope, we built level terraces in some areas," she says. "We brought in about 20 truckloads of topsoil and hundreds of cubic metres of compost. I'm a great believer in excellent soil condition. It may add to the cost and build time, but the results are well worth it."

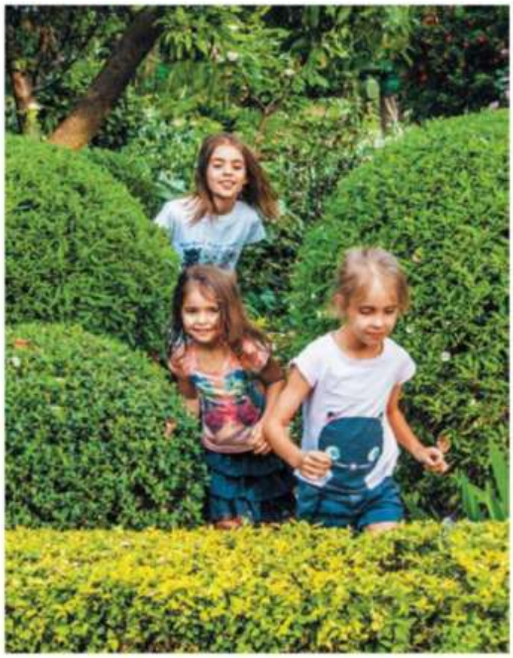
The garden evolved almost organically. "We had a general idea of the layout, but kept on tweaking the finer details," recalls Nico. "Mary Ann and I would walk around in the evenings and I'd draw ▷











lines in the soil with a stick to show where I wanted the retaining walls to go."

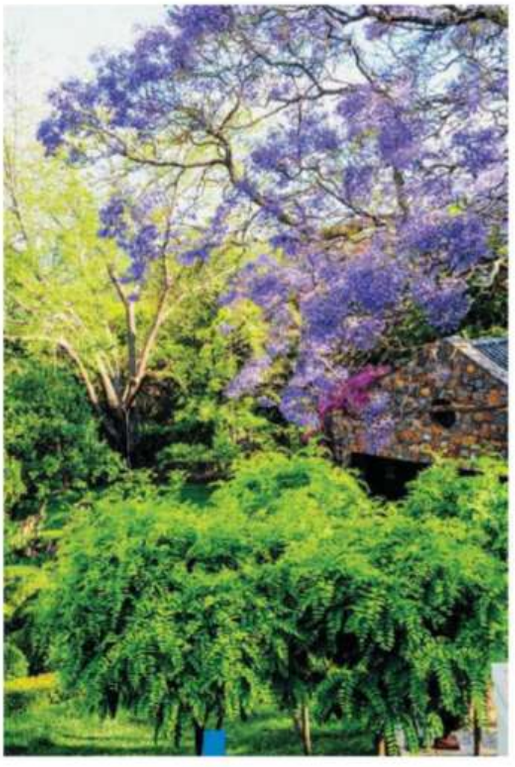
There are very few remnants of the old garden left. Now, as you enter the property through large wooden gates, the driveway winds up the slope flanked on one side by a low retaining wall, which is almost hidden by the star jasmine that tumbles over it. The house is glimpsed through young trees and clipped shrubs, framed by massive jacarandas.

From the driveway, short steps planted with erigeron and defined by cast-iron pots planted with buxus lead to the front door through an avenue of *Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Inermis' (mop heads). "Don't confuse these with the invasive black locust robinia," comments Mary Ann. "Mop heads have become quite difficult to find, but are hugely rewarding. Just remember to give them a good haircut in spring."

As the Strydoms wanted to screen their house from the road, Mary Ann planted 14 large trees, which include indigenous *Heteropyxis natalensis, Dombeya rotundifolia* and *Buddleja saligna* and exotic *Magnolia grandiflora* and viburnums for their contrasting foliage and delightful blooms. "Nico didn't want to wait years for the trees and shrubs to fill out and hide the house, so we planted them a little closer together than usual," explains Mary Ann. "The family also

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ● Star jasmine was used to soften pillars and retaining walls. ● At the end of the pool, Australian tree ferns and *Dietes bicolor* are used for dramatic effect. ● The shrubs were shaped into balls to contrast with the soft planting of the surrounding trees. ● The girls have their own pathway to their tree house. ● The Lutyens bench is one of Michele and Nico's favourite spots.







spends a lot of time in their kitchen so I screened this area from the driveway with plants like hypoestes, *Murraya exotica*, azaleas and camellias."

From the house there are two ways down to the pool terrace. The girls generally choose the more adventurous route that takes them through the trees and clipped shrubs to their tree house and then down a slide to the lower level. "We decided to shape the grouping of westringia, abelia and berberis shrubs into balls so they'd contrast with the soft planting of the surrounding trees," explains Mary Ann.

For those of grown-up persuasion, a path, once again framed on one side with star jasmine, leads down steps softened by the surrounding Shade-Over grass to the swimming pool and the pool house (featured in October 2015's *Garden and Home*). Halfway along is a lovely wooden bench. "This is Nico and my favourite area of the garden. We love to sit there while the girls play in the pool below," says Michele.

Below the pool is another low retaining wall and beyond this Mary Ann planted Australian tree ferns and *Dietes bicolor*. "I wanted something dramatic here," she explains.

"I also love roses, so Mary Ann planted them in a sunny spot halfway up the driveway so I can enjoy them whenever I drive in and out," says Michele. "They were all chosen specifically for their scent and names that had meaning to us, like 'Madiba' and 'Grey College', where Nico went to school.

"Both Nico and I have fond childhood memories of playing in large gardens. We wanted to give our daughters their own memories in a place where they could explore and play." says Michele. With this in mind, Mary Ann asked Amandla Tree Fellers to remove the oleanders and syringas, and tidy up the remaining English oaks, pin oaks and jacarandas.

A fairy garden was designed outside the girls' playroom complete with a Wendy house, concrete toadstools and a mural. "This section is completely separate and fenced off from the rest of the property, so I can leave the girls there for hours, secure in the knowledge that they're safe." says Michele.

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ● Much of the garden has been levelled with retaining walls. ● The large jacarandas were retained. ● A completely separate fairy garden was built for the girls.

SOURCES **Amandla Tree Fellers** 082 683 5872 **Emay Gardens** 082 448 8122



Green FINGERS

The immaculate pavement garden is the first sign that this property in Meadowridge, Cape Town is home to a talented gardener

When Nicholas and Zanette Walker bought the house next door, they planned to renovate it and then sell it. However, realising that all the changes they'd made suited their lifestyle perfectly, they decided to sell their own home and move in instead. "Another attraction was creating a new garden practically from scratch," says Nicholas who does all the gardening himself. His work as a lithographer and training as a watercolourist helped him visualise the new design and layout, and the result is appealing and well organised.

The intimate back section, overlooked by their shady outdoor living area, had the potential to become a courtyard garden. "It begged for straight lines and a geometric pattern," explains Nicholas.

His design has the effect of interlocking and overlapping rectangles and squares which is both interesting and easy on the eye.

The trees and shrubs, planted along the boundary to give privacy and protection from the wind, now provide a lush evergreen backdrop for a small fountain, the focal point of the area. Tree ferns and several leopard trees (*Caesalpinia ferrea)* cast shade between two wings of the house where clivias, begonias, ferns and plectranthus provide seasonal colour.

The front section, although laid out in a less formal manner, shows Nicholas's penchant for strong lines where he ▷

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS **MARIANNE ALEXANDER**





THIS SPREAD, CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: ● White 'Iceberg' roses break the perennial plantings of pale blue heliotrope and agapanthus in this bed leading to the front door. ● A fountain nestles in the foliage in the back section, adding a tranquil sound and attracting birds. ● Evergreen elephant's ears (alocasia) thrive in this shady bed among lavender-coloured plectranthus and begonias.



Who lives here

Nicholas Walker, a retired lithographer, who runs a small landscaping business and his wife, Zanette, who's involved in catering.

The house

A small suburban garden in the southern suburbs of Cape Town, encompassing both formal and informal elements.





NICHOLAS'S TOP GARDENING TIPS

- To save your back, invest in a small plastic child's chair and work from that; it's the perfect height.
- Don't wait until your plants are out of shape and too big to prune. Shape them from the time you plant them.
- When pruning, get right into the plant. It's far easier to see what and how much to cut back from this view point.
- Keeping edges and hedges trimmed instantly makes a garden look neat.
- Use discarded bricks and pavers for pathways, edging and stepping stones.
- To make an arch for next to nothing, tie a piece of flexible black irrigation pipe to tall stakes on either side of a path and train a climber over it.
- Feed plants plenty of compost and and foliar feed regularly.

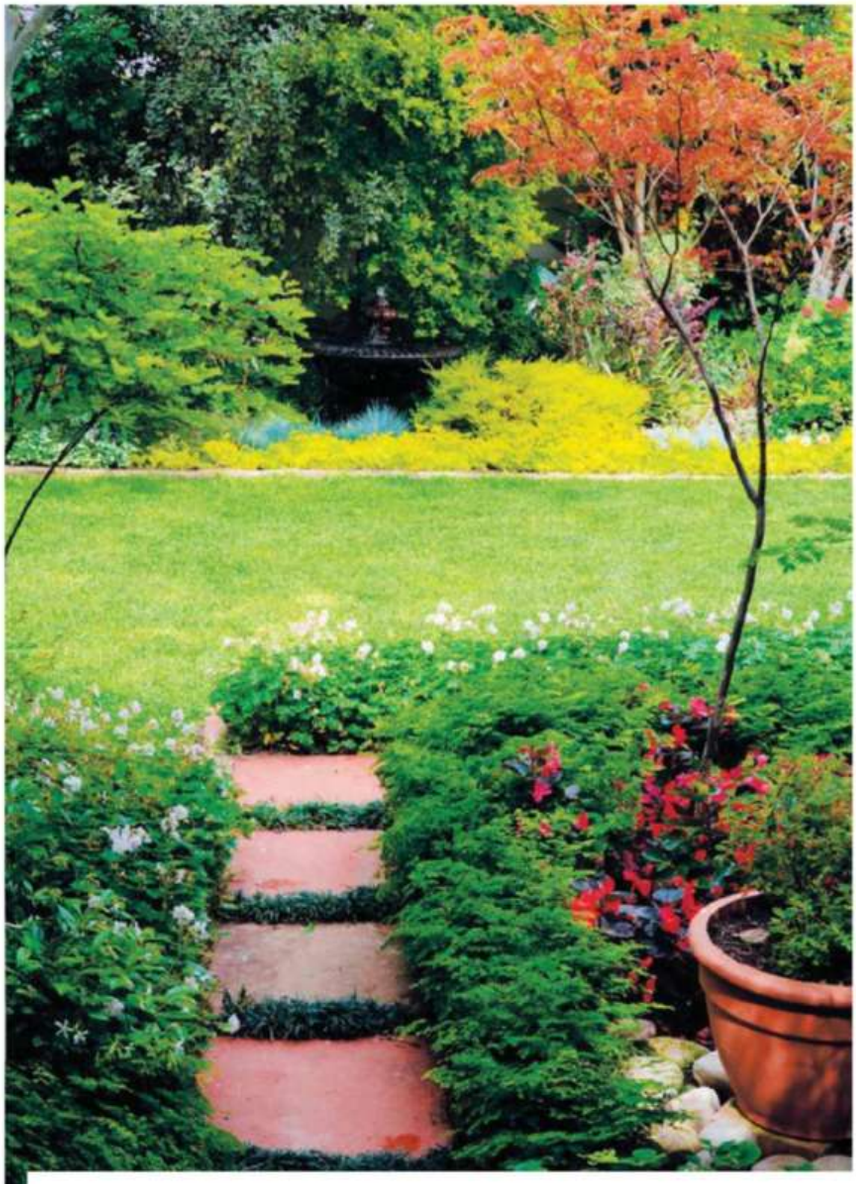
THIS PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT: ● In the front garden, the repetition of plants and simplicity of planting is easy on the eye. The birches planted around the bench have not performed well and are being replaced with indigenous trees. ● Foliage plants like the silver artemisia give the garden a lift as do the the golden durantas and melaleucas, a *Phlomis fruticosa* and yellow daylilies.

emphasised the curved borders with appropriate planting. The curving path to the front door is bordered by an immaculate box hedge. "When I saw the price of individual buxus plants, I had second thoughts about this." Then he discovered he could buy large trays of 128 small plants far more cheaply and he cut these back hard before planting.

"One of the qualities a gardener must have is patience," he says. "I find that young plants often establish themselves and perform better as they put down a good root system quickly, whereas larger plants with root systems restricted by containers take longer."

Every inch of this garden has been cultivated. Behind the garage is a tiny vegetable patch and the narrow strips between the house and boundary were paved and planted with shade lovers.

There's even a mini forest in a little alcove. At the back of the property is the compost heap and propagation area. Many of the plants, particularly the groundcovers and perennials, were propagated by Nicholas. "There's no magic to it," he says. "If something grows









THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ● A view of the fountain from a narrow path bordered by maidenhair ferns. At the end is light-pink groundcover *Geranium dalmaticum*. ● A water feature is surrounded by elephant's ears, weeping anthericum (*Anthericum saundersiae*) and hen-and-chickens. The grey groundcover in the foreground is snow-in-summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*). ● The view from the front door down the path to the aggregate driveway. ● In the alcove between the two wings of the house, tree ferns and several leopard trees (*Caesalpinia ferrea*) cast their shade.

well and spreads, I take slips or root cuttings and use these elsewhere in the garden."

Over the years friends have asked Nicholas to help them plan and plant their gardens, which he generously did over weekends. Now that he's retired, he's turned his passion into a full-time landscaping and maintenance business, Let's Garden.

SOURCE **Let's Garden** 021 712 1921, 082 807 7085, nicholas@letsgarden.co.za or letsgarden.co.za

GARDEN notes

There's lots to do in the garden right now so get outdoors and enjoy it



Highlights

An 9W LED Outdoor Wall Light, R 1,421, from K Light Imports, creates great ambience at night. It's available from selected lighting stores. For stockists, visit klight.co.za

10 must dos this month



Contributing garden editor Marianne Alexander's handy checklist of essential chores to do in November

1 **Continue to feed and water roses regularly** and keep spraying to prevent fungal outbreaks, particularly black spot. During hot dry spells, check for red or twin spotted spider mites that suck sap from the undersurface of leaves. Prune rambling roses like banksia, 'Dorothy Perkins' and trim old-fashioned or species roses.

2 **Prune deciduous spring-flowering shrubs** such as weigelia, snowball bush and forsythia. Cut out old woody stems at ground level to encourage new growth. Neaten spring flowers like cistus (rock rose) and confetti bushes. Trim spring-flowering climbers *Jasminum polyanthum, Gelsemium sempervirens* (Carolina Jessamine) and petrea. Clip topiaries and hedges.



Gelsemium

3 **Feed summer-flowering annuals, bulbs, perennials and fuchsias** fortnightly with a foliar feed or slow-release feed like 2:3:4 or 3:1:5. Pick or deadhead to extend the flowering period.

4 **Plant quick growing, summer-flowering annuals** like ageratum, alyssum, calceolaria, celosia, cleome, cosmos, bedding dahlia, dianthus, lavatera, lobelia, marigold, nicotiana, penstemon, petunia, portulaca, salvia, verbena, zinnia and vinca hybrids. For semi-shade, plant coleus, impatiens, torenia and begonias.

5 **Mow lawns once a week,** although twice is better. Water at least 20–25mm deep, each week in the morning to prevent fungal outbreaks. Water well, but less frequently, to encourage the roots to grow deeper to the cooler moist layers. Feed midmonth with a balanced fertiliser like 3:1:5 or 2:3:4 for a lush and green lawn at Christmas. Hold back on the fertiliser if you plan to be away and it won't be mowed.

6 **Water hydrangeas deeply once a week** and give them a last application of blueing agent. Acid lovers like azaleas, gardenias, camellias and blue hydrangeas will benefit from acid-based mulch; pack used teabags around their roots. Treat chlorosis (yellowing leaves) with a solution of iron chelate; a fortnight later, apply a handful of Epsom salts.

7 **Take slips of soft-wooded shrubs** like daisy, heliotrope, *Solanum rantonnetii*, Dusty Miller, lavender and groundcovers like gazania, arctotis, lamium, vygies and perennials. Lift and divide overcrowded plants such as bearded and Louisiana irises and bergenias.

8 **Clean dead leaves from clumps** of red-hot pokers, dieramas (fairy fishing rods), and *Dietes* spp. (wild iris). Feed with a slow-release fertiliser.

9 **Watch out for snails and slugs** on newly planted summer bulbs like *Eucomis* spp. (pineapple lilies), and hostas. Select new and unusual Inca lilies and daylilies while they're in flower.

10 **In summer rainfall areas,** set your automatic irrigation system to switch off when it rains. In dry areas, mulch the garden well to preserve moisture.



Herb Happening Weekend

Wander around or take a guided walk through designer herb gardens at Healthy Living Herbs' Doonholm Herb Farm, 264 Summit Road, Midrand, Gauteng, from 30 October – 1 November. Some of the attractions are expert talks, a market and herbal fare outdoors at The Herb Café. Entrance is R40, R30 for pensioners, children under 12, R10. Call 011 464 0921 or visit healthyliving-herbs.co.za

STORE TOOLS IN STYLE



1 Keter Store-It-Out Arc, R3 799,99, Lifestyle Home Garden, lifestyle.co.za **2** Toto storage box, R499, Superbalist.com

TEXT **MARIANNE ALEXANDER** AND **DIANE PEACOCK** SHOPPING PRODUCTS **MANDY BUCHHOLZ** PHOTOGRAPHS **MARIANNE ALEXANDER, PETER WHITFIELD** AND **SUPPLIED** PRODUCTS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND PRICES WERE CHECKED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. SEE PAGE 6.

Pet protection

Merial's NexGard is a beef-flavoured, vegetable-based chewable tablet taken monthly that kills both the cat and dog flea species quickly and effectively with continued protection for a full 30 days. Visit NexGardForDogs.com





The veggie garden

1 Continue to sow batches of beans.
2 Keep beds well mulched and feed regularly for optimum growth.
3 Lettuces grow best in cooler moist conditions so provide them with a little shade or grow heat-resistant varieties like 'Great Lakes'. During summer look out for 'Dual Purpose' and 'Veneza Roxa' (red), 'Elisa' (butter), 'Lavinia' (green oak), 'Vera' (green frilly) and 'Maira' (red oak) from MayFord.
4 Struggling to grow parsley? Pop the seed packet in your fridge for a few days before planting.
5 Nip out basil plants to encourage them to bush out.
6 Don't be too rigorous about weeding. The young leaves of many weeds are tasty, filled with goodness and can be added to salads and steamed like spinach. These include the young leaves of the common blackjack (*Bidens spinosa*), chickweed (*Stellaria media*) (pictured below), succulent portulaca or purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*), dandelions and marog (*Amaranthus* spp.)
7 To save space, train plants like gem squash, cucumbers and marrows up trellises or tripods.



EASY SPRAYING



Water seeds and seedlings with a fine-holed bottle top waterer, about R36,99 for two, from soughtafterseedlings.co.za. They screw onto any plastic bottle and provide a gentle spray. They're also available from Lifestyle Home Garden and GardenShops.

PEST **WATCH**

1 Amaryllis caterpillars (lily borers) on crinums, clivia, nerines, amaryllis and brunsvigia can be controlled by spraying with Bioneem or Pyrol. Efekto's Eco Insect Control SC is both preventive and curative.


1

2 Agapanthus borer can be sprayed with Ludwig's Insect Spray or Margaret Roberts Biological Caterpillar Insecticide. Drench infected clumps with Kemprin.


2

Note: When using products containing pyrethroid, DON'T apply more than two applications per growing season. Rather use an alternative product from a different insecticide group to prevent pests from developing a natural resistance.


1


2


3

3 LEMON-SCENTED PLANTS

1 Lemon-scented pelargonium (*Pelargonium* 'Citriodorum')
This shrubby plant has bright green leaves and pretty pink flowers. Grow from cuttings or carefully dig up and replant rooted suckers.
The bottom line: 75cm–1m high, it will take sun or partial shade and is quite drought tolerant.
2 Lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*)
Like mint, this prolific grower sends out creeping runners each topped by a fluffy mauve flower head in summer.
The bottom line: 40cm high, it loves moisture and is happy in both sun and semi-shade.
3 Lemon grass (*Cymbopogon citratus*)
This dramatic, clump-forming grass from the hot humid regions has long, weeping leaves. Use the leaves and the tender white base in oriental cooking.
The bottom line: 1m high, propagate by splitting large clumps in spring. ▷



We're planting...

Portulaca 'Rio Grande'

Why: This versatile annual has exceptionally large magenta, orange, scarlet, yellow and white, single flowers. These low-growing, 7–10cm high, well-branched plants spread 25–30cm. They make great groundcovers, bed edging and cascading plants for hanging baskets and containers. They thrive in heat and flower all summer.

Where: They grow easily in average, dry to moderately moist, well-drained soils in full sun.

How: Improve drainage in heavy soils by working sand into the beds.

This weekend

Make your own compost heap.

- Commercial bins are quick and easy to assemble. You can also make your own with old wooden pallets or concrete breezeblocks or just pile your garden refuse up like a giant sandwich.
- Place the heap directly on the soil so existing microbes, bacteria and other creepy crawlies can work their magic.
- To kick-start it, use a layer of coarse vegetable matter like twigs and sticks as a base.
- Then start adding garden refuse like grass and garden cuttings and household refuse in 30cm layers, alternating fine compact matter like lawn cuttings with looser offcuts so it doesn't become compacted.
- Add Efecto's Wonder Organic Compost Activator or an occasional layer of manure and yarrow, tansy and comfrey, which also help with decomposition.
- Keep it moist. Turning after about two months or so will hasten decomposition. It'll be ready in 3–6 months.





Earthy goodness

Seboko, R35 for a 10kg bag, from Future Families is a nutrient-rich organic compost made by earthworms from a mixture of cattle manure and grass cuttings. It's weed free and odourless. Apply it directly to lawns, flowerbeds and pot plants. To order, e-mail tasch@futurefamilies.co.za For stockists, visit futurefamilies.co.za

ASK ANDRE

Q The branches of my peach trees exude a yellow fungal gum after it rains. What should I do? **Hester Boshoff, via Facebook**

A Gummosis is a general term describing the prolific oozing of sap from a tree. Stone fruit trees are sensitive to injury and will respond by exuding a gelatine-like gum in spring. It can also be a due to poor growing conditions, such as compacted soil. If the oozing gum is clear, the problem is abiotic (non-living). If the ooze is dark-coloured, it is caused by a disease.

Apply a protective spray of Efekto Virikop to trees before flowering. Prune trees in early summer to decrease likelihood of infection and seal with Efekto Steriseal wound sealer and fungicide.

Visit efekto.co.za

Got a gardening problem? Send your query to gardenhome@caxton.co.za with 'Ask Andre' in the subject line.



Andre Bimray of Efekto



What's On

7 NOVEMBER Winterton Street Festival

Head to Winterton, gateway to the Central Drakensberg in KZN, for a host of outdoor activities plus a garden furniture and indigenous plant fair. For more information, call Annali on 082 548 9910.

14 NOVEMBER Garden of Gifts

Hosted by a local garden club, there'll be gifts and handmade products on sale and a Bonsai demonstration at the Murraysburg Church, 135km from Beaufort West. On from 10h00, entrance is R50. For more information, call Linda on 082 835 6939.

OPEN gardens

Visit a beautiful open garden this month and support a worthy cause

OCTOBER Gardens of the Golden City
These Jo'burg gardens are open from 10h00 – 17h00. For more information, visit gardensofthegoldencity.co.za

31 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER
Michelle's Garden, High Cloud, High Cloud Road, Irene
This 10-acre estate is filled with unusual plants. Entrance is R50, children over 3, R25. Tea garden here. Call Lynne on 082 689 0930 or Margreet on 072 400 1559.

7 – 8 NOVEMBER
Kim Gaskell, 8 Dove Road, Norscot Slopes, Douglasdale
This indigenous garden has a natural self-filtering pool. Entrance R30, children under 12, free. Call Lynne on 082 689 0930 or Vivienne on 082 464 1352.

7 – 8 NOVEMBER
Entrance to these two gardens in Stratford Gardens, Broadacres is R40. Call Lynne on 082 689 0930 or Vivienne on 082 464 1352.
Vanessa and Haydn Davies, 16 Troy Crescent
It's cleverly divided into sections with flora from various regions of the country. Tea garden here.
Elaine Venter, 21 Troy Close
A medium-sized garden that includes fynbos, succulents and indigenous and exotic plants.

31 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER Avondale
The large eight-acre garden at 40 Protea Way, Durbanville is open from 09h00 – 17h00. Entrance is R20. For information, call Ronelle on 082 850 5549.

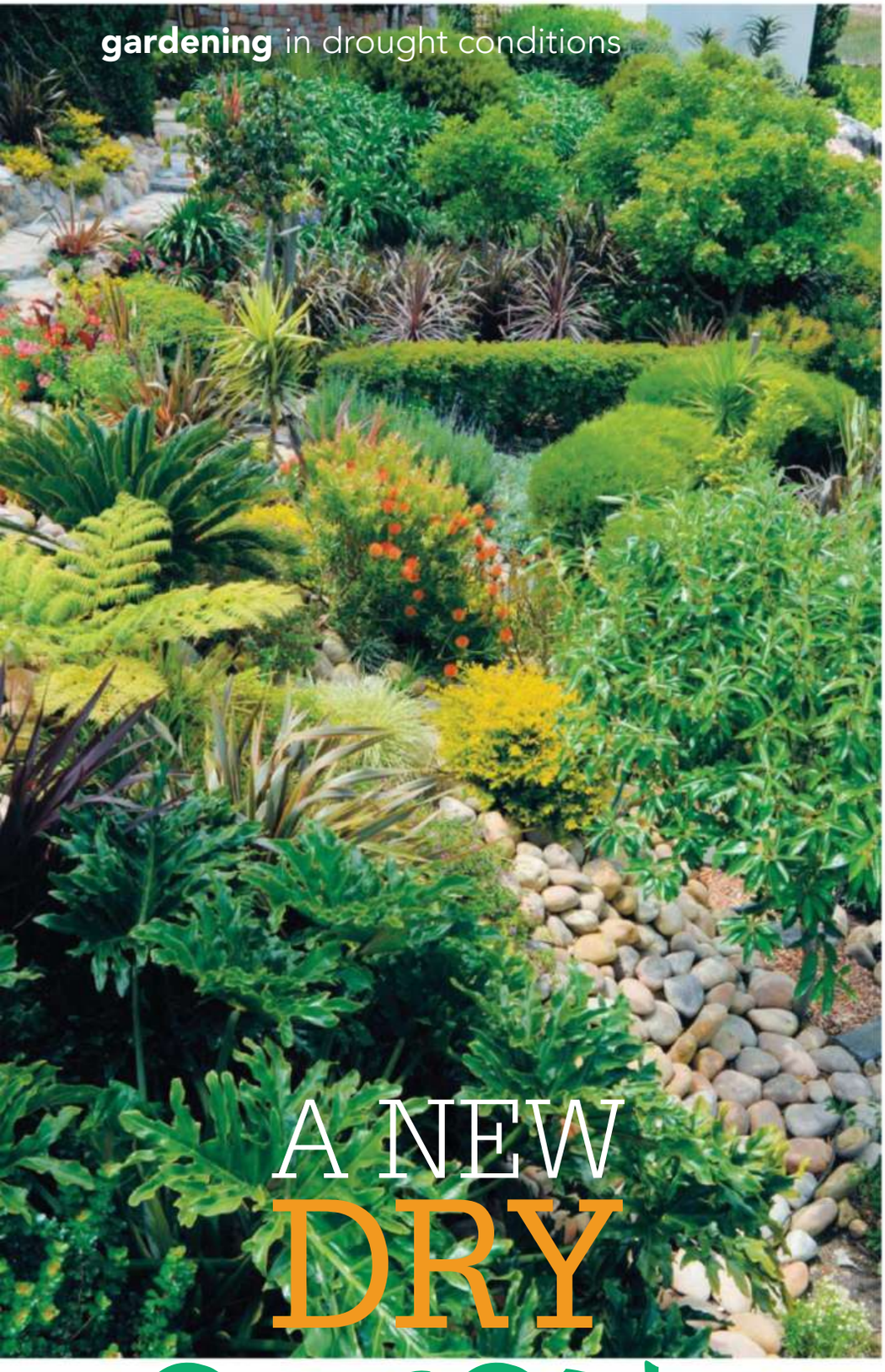
31 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER AND 7 – 8 NOVEMBER Elgin Open Gardens
Twenty one gardens in the Elgin, Vyeboom and Bot River districts will be open 10h00 – 17h00. Entrance to some gardens is free, others are between R10 – R25. Visit elginopengardens.co.za.

6 – 8 NOVEMBER Southern Drakensberg Open Gardens Festival
Apart from 10 beautiful gardens in Underberg and the surrounding areas, there'll be gardening talks and a flower show. For more information, call Meg on 082 316 3501.

7 – 8 NOVEMBER Harding Open Gardens
A variety of gardens in the Harding area, KwaZulu-Natal, will be open in aid of the SPCA. Entrance to all the gardens is R20; children under 12, free. For more information, call Joy Nightingale on 073 579 9325, Val Payn on 083 441 6961 or Gloria on 083 450 1697.

7 – 8 NOVEMBER Leisure Isle Festival, Knysna
There are six gardens on show plus stalls, music and food. Entrance is R50 pp for all six gardens. Call Denise Voysey on 044 384 1896 or visit leisureislefestival.co.za GH





A NEW DRY season

Drought is a reality in many parts of South Africa, so if you're planning a new garden or maintaining an existing one, make every drop go further with these savvy approaches to design and upkeep



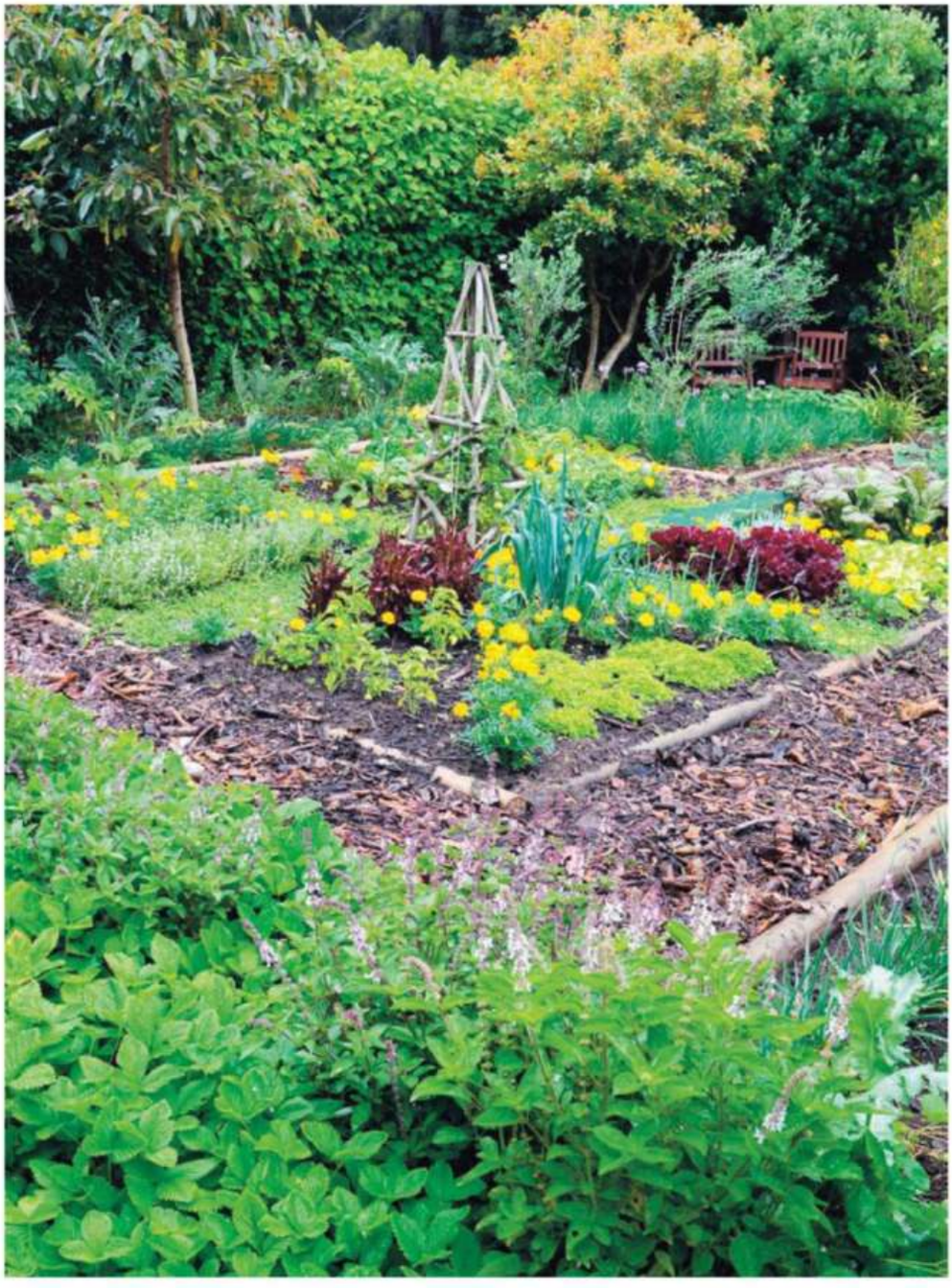


LANDSCAPING

- Minimise hard, impermeable surfaces like paving. They reflect heat, making your plants thirstier and prevent rainwater from seeping into the soil. Lift some pavers or bricks to have soak-aways where water can sink in.
- Resurface driveways, yards and paths with porous surfaces or paving blocks and plastic grid systems filled with plants.

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ● In this Cape garden, rainwater is directed via a concrete channel covered by an an attractive bed of pebbles, into a water tank. ● Use porous materials like bark chips on paths instead of paving so water can soak in. ● In this dry garden, the small area of lawn is drought-resistant buffalo grass. Another good idea is to build water tanks or reservoirs under patios or decks.

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS **MARIANNE ALEXANDER**





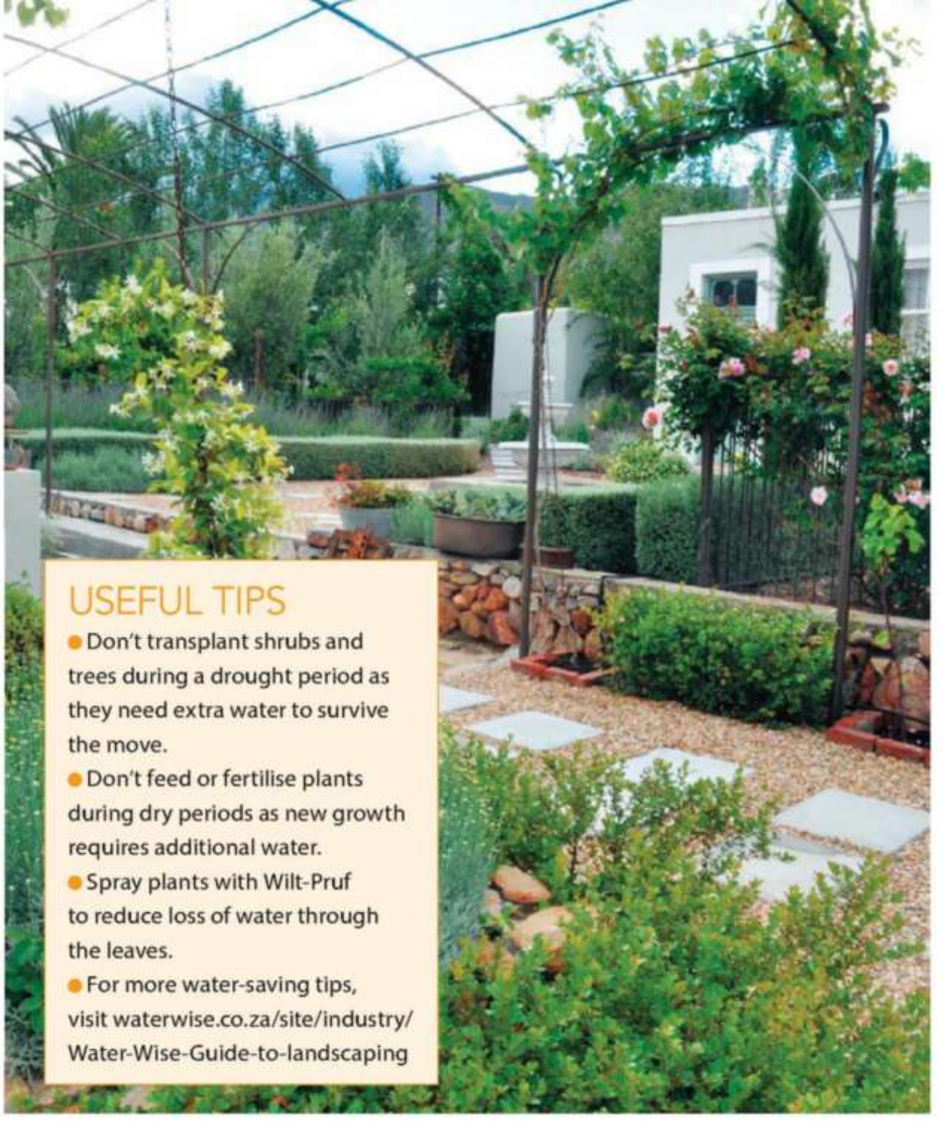


- Make berms or drainage channels to direct rainwater to where it's needed or where it can soak in or be harvested.
- Contour the land to form rain gardens. These are shallow, channel-like depressions or bioswales that intercept and slow down run-off rainwater, giving it time to soak into the soil. Plant these with plants that can cope with both periodic flooding and dry periods, and also filter the water.
- As water tends to run off slopes, devise a way to catch this run-off water or build level terraces where it can soak in.
- Don't waste rainwater; harvest it from the roof, the driveway and patios. Direct it into water tanks or reservoirs which can be hidden underground. This won't necessarily be sufficient for the whole garden, but it'll be enough for high-water-use zones.
- Install a grey water system to capture and recycle water from baths, showers and washing machines. Make sure you use cleaning products that are safe for garden use.
- Cover your swimming pool to reduce evaporation and install a holding tank for backwash water so that it can be returned to the pool.
- Protect plants from drying winds by erecting semipermeable screens or fences of latte, bamboo or trellis. A solid barrier will create severe turbulence or eddies causing more damage on the leeward side. Another idea is to plant loose, informal hedges as screens. ▷

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ● This sloping terrace was levelled to create a vegetable garden where rainwater can soak in rather than run off down the driveway. Bark chips on the paths keep the soil cool and prevent further water loss. ● Hollow paving blocks, like these eco-surface hard lawn paving blocks from Terraforce, and grid systems can be filled with plants and grass, allowing water to soak in. ● With a grey water system like this one attached to a JoJo Tank, you can reuse some household water in the garden.







USEFUL TIPS

- Don't transplant shrubs and trees during a drought period as they need extra water to survive the move.
- Don't feed or fertilise plants during dry periods as new growth requires additional water.
- Spray plants with Wilt-Pruf to reduce loss of water through the leaves.
- For more water-saving tips, visit waterwise.co.za/site/industry/Water-Wise-Guide-to-landscaping

INCREASE THE SOIL'S WATER-HOLDING CAPACITY

- Mix crystals and granules like Terra-Sorb, Aquasoil or Stockosorb polymers in with the soil in the base of your planting holes. These absorb water and release it in dry periods.
- Dig in compost or hydrated coir peat at planting time.
- Improve sandy soils and those that repel water by breaking or loosening the surface crust. Apply soil-wetting agents or surfactants, like SaturAid.
- Use mulches, preferably organic, such as pine needles, bark, straw or wood chips. Apply a 5cm-thick layer to soil that's already moist. Check that water is able to penetrate; simply loosening the mulch can improve its porosity. Reapply periodically.

LAWNS

- Lawns guzzle a lot of water, so if you need one, reduce its size.
- Plant water-wise grasses like MayFord's new ER, All Seasons Evergreen and Shade-Over grasses as these have bigger and deeper root systems, which improve nutrient uptake and help the grass become more drought resistant.
- Encourage local, endemic grasses that can cope with dry periods and let them merge with your present lawn to dominate in dry periods.
- In small areas, use artificial grass such as Duraturf. There's an amazing range of extremely realistic faux grasses available, or replace lawn with gravel and groundcovers.

EFFICIENT WATERING

- Water only when necessary and keep the soil mulched.
- Watering deeply, but less often, encourages roots to move deeper into the soil where it's cooler and moist. Get to know your soil; sandy soils need more frequent watering than clay.
- Water in the early morning to avoid evaporation in the heat of the day. Only water in the evenings in areas where fungal infections aren't a problem.
- Direct water to the root zone by inserting several hollow pipes (3–5cm rigid, plastic irrigation pipes work well) around trees and large shrubs, but not right next to the trunk or stem. Place a dowel in the pipe when pushing it in to prevent it from filling up with soil. Remove the dowel once the pipe is in place and water through the pipe.
- Make holes (using a needle heated over a flame) in the bottom of several two-litre cold drink bottles and bury these around the root zone. Pour water directly into the bottles to encourage plants to develop a deep drought-resistant root system.
- Create dams or reservoirs around plants so the soil around the perimeter is lower than in the middle. This way water is absorbed slowly and flows to the roots and not the trunk or stem. ▷

THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ● Straw mulch not only preserves moisture, it enriches the soil as it decomposes. ● Level sloping gardens and create porous surfaces with, for example, gravel chips laid over a geotextile. This minimises run-off, allowing water to soak into the ground or be channelled into an underground reservoir. ● Reduce the size of water-guzzling lawns.



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- Drip irrigation systems are more efficient than overhead systems and can cut down water consumption by 70%. With sprinklers and micro-jet sprays, a lot of water is blown away, especially on windy days.
- Fit automated irrigation systems with rain sensors and adjust the settings according to the seasons and rainfall.

CHOOSING PLANTS

- To reduce your water bills, replace plants that need a lot of water with low water users. Ideally only 10–15% of all your plants should have high water requirements. Plant these together in a high water zone, preferably near the house or patio. Many plants can adapt to periods of little or no water so group these together.
- About 20–30% of your plants can be medium users, planted in a separate zone. The remaining 50% should have low water requirements. Plant them in low water zones away from the house and in exposed areas. If you can create 'no water' zones, where plants are totally reliant on rainwater, you can make further savings.
- Select plants compatible with the climate and rainfall pattern. Don't plant shrubs or trees from winter-rainfall areas in summer-rainfall areas and vice versa. Many plants from the Eastern Cape, like tecoma and plumbago, are however, suitable for both climatic regions.
- Look for plants that store water in their leaves, such as succulents and aloes, in their stems, such as the Sabi star (adenium) and spekboom (*Portulacaria afra*), or underground in corms or bulbs, for instance, the March lily and agapanthus.
- Plants with grey foliage reflect the sun and often have fine or hairy leaves which minimise evaporation; they're also usually more drought tolerant.





THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Drip irrigation is the most effective way to reduce evaporation, directing water to the plant's roots. Keeping the soil well mulched lessens the need for water. Water-savvy plants, arctotis (1), ivy-leafed pelargonium (2) and plumbago (3).

THE BEST WATER-SAVVY PLANTS

Shrubs: Frangipani, cistus, dodonaea, plumbago, rosemary, westringia, strelitzia, *Carissa* spp., coleonema (confetti bush) and buddleja.

Groundcovers: Arcotis, gazanias, *Plectranthus neochilus*, vygies, silver carpet (*Dymondia margaretae*), lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina*), everlastings like *Helichrysum petiolare*, blue daisy (*Felicia amelloides*) and *Erigeron karvinskianus*.

Bulbs and corms: Agapanthus, dietes, tulbaghia, asparagus fern, pineapple flower (*Eucomis* spp.), clivia, *Gladiolus dalenii*, watsonia, dianella and renga-renga lily (*Arthropodium cirratum*).

Perennials: *Echium candicans*, salvia, pelargoniums, blue statice (*Limonium perezii*), Mother-in-law's tongue (*Sansevieria* spp.), achillea or tansy, bromeliads, *Ballota africana*, *Euphorbia* spp., *Gaura lindheimeri*, Dusty Miller and verbascum.

Succulents: Aloes, crassulas, agaves, kalanchoe, echeveria, *Senecio* spp., *Bulbine frutescens*, century plant (*Agave attenuata*), *Aeonium* spp. and vygies like lampranthus, ruschia, carpobrotus and drosanthemum.







SOURCES **DuraTurf** duraturfsa.co.za
JoJo Tanks jojotanks.co.za
RainQueen rainqueentanks.co.za
Terraforce terraforce.com

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If nothing grows under trees, the answer is to pave the area and bring in colour with containers.

SHADY *solutions*

Trees add character and attract wildlife to gardens, but their shade can cause problems. Here are some solutions



Decking is a low-maintenance solution for shady paths.

How do you deal with root competition under trees?

Unfortunately there's no quick fix for this one. The simplest method is to dig over the area to a depth of about half a metre, removing as many of the tree's little feeder roots as possible. Add a generous amount of compost, some general fertiliser and a few handfuls of bonemeal and then plant. The downside of this method is that the roots will grow back in a year or so.

A more permanent solution is to remove the soil down to about 75cm, leaving only the largest of the tree roots in place. Line the space with thick industrial plastic, moulding it around the large roots. Punch plenty of holes through the plastic with a garden fork. Mix compost and fertiliser into the removed soil, replace it in the hole and insert the plants.

If you have perennials like hostas or hellebores, plant them in plastic pots slightly larger than the planting bag they came in and then sink them into the desired position. You'll need to repot the plants every few years. An alternative is to pave or deck the area under the trees and bring in colour with plants in pots.

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS **CONNALL OOSTERBROEK**



Ribbons of bedding begonias thrive in shade and semi-shade.



Bedding begonias are an easy way to add colour to shady spots.

How can I instantly add colour to the shady areas in my garden?

The quickest and easiest way is with seedlings. A trip to your local garden centre will reveal a host of floriferous annuals that thrive in shade and semi-shade. Most trays of seedlings will already be in bud or flower, so will quickly add colour.

A good choice is *Begonia semperflorens* (semperflorens means always flowering) as they flower from seedling stage until the end of May or when the first frost hits colder areas. Although you should ideally start planting begonia seedlings at the beginning of September, they can be planted until February. In warmer areas like KwaZulu-Natal and frost-free regions in the Cape, these annuals can be planted all-year round.

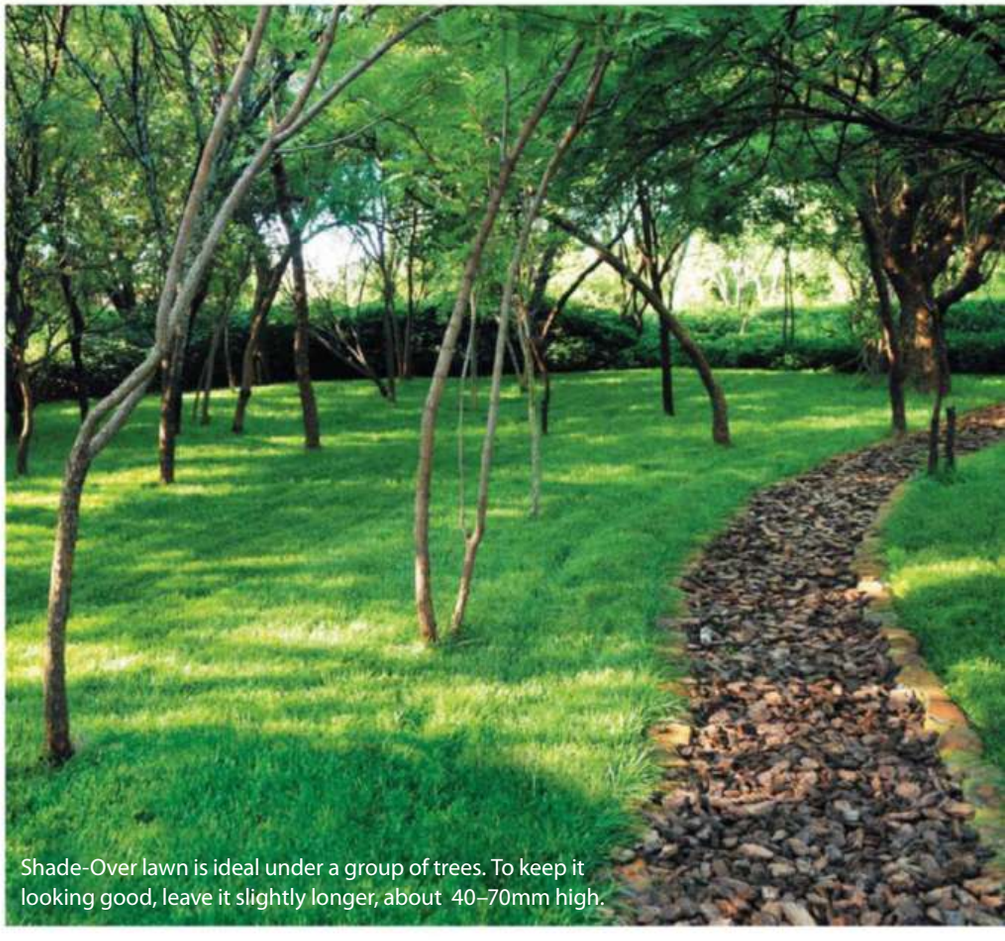
Bedding begonias are ideal for edging and places that alternate between sun and shade. Impatiens are another good choice. See page 92 for more details. ▷

Is it possible to grow grass in shade?

Yes you can! There are a number of grass varieties available for shady conditions. Shade-Over from MayFord is a good choice. It's a medium-textured grass much like kikuyu that keeps its bright green colour throughout the year. It's a combination of cool-season grasses bred for South African growing conditions. Shade-Over tolerates a lot of traffic, provided it is given a chance to become properly established.

The most important aspect of keeping these types of lawns healthy is mowing them at the correct height. If the lawn is in full shade, it should be cut 50–70 mm high, and in half shade, the grass should be 40–50mm high. Lawns in shady areas won't survive low mowing.

Another option is wonderlawn. It's not really a grass, but more of a groundcover with hardened, flat broad leaves. It's reasonably drought resistant and does well in partial shade, but can't handle heavy traffic or saline and alkali soils. In particularly difficult areas, it's often wise to use artificial turf.



Shade-Over lawn is ideal under a group of trees. To keep it looking good, leave it slightly longer, about 40–70mm high.



Don't cut branches flush or too far from the tree.

My garden has become terribly shady. What can I do to make it lighter?

The most common remedies for too much shade involves pruning or tree removal. However, removing trees is an extreme measure, which not only reduces the wildlife in the garden, but also changes its entire character.

A far more subtle method is to lift the tree's canopy, which means cutting off the lowest branches and cutting out the dead and broken wood. This may even be sufficient to let in enough light. If not, most trees will tolerate having up to a quarter to a third of their canopy removed at one time, leaving at least two thirds to maintain the health of the tree. Make sure that your pruning tools are sharp and make the cuts outside the branch collar to prevent damage to the parent wood. This usually has to be done annually.

While it might seem logical to prune out the wood on the sunny side of the tree, it's essential to balance the pruning cuts so the tree isn't lopsided.

It's advisable to get in a professional arborist. Not only are they trained for this type of work, but know just where to prune. Be sure they carry insurance against falling branches.

What can I plant in shade?

Before you set off to buy plants, walk around your garden and identify the shaded expanses. Determine the shade quality, whether it's heavy, dappled or shady to light, and the amount of light that reaches these areas at different times of the day. Ask your nurseryman about the best position and the light requirements of the plants you're interested in. Here are some of the best shade lovers:

GROUNDCOVERS
- Lamium
- Creeping Jenny
- Lamb's ears
- Violet
- Bacopa
- Ajuga

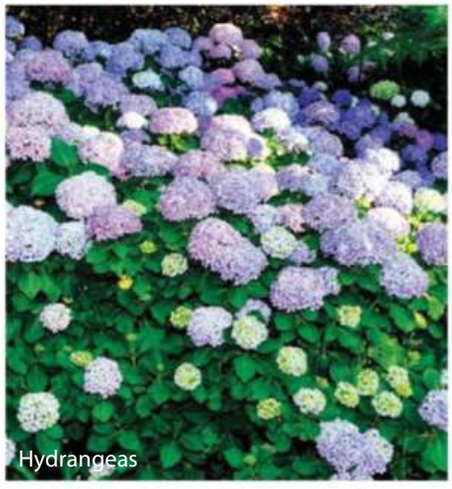
SHRUBS
- Azalea
- *Plectranthus* spp.
- Hydrangea
- Coprosma
- Yesterday-today-and-tomorrow
- Fuchsia hybrids

ANNUALS
- Delphinium
- Digitalis
- Nicotiana
- Lobelia
- Mimulus
- Coleus

PERENNIALS
- Columbine (*Aquilegia)*
- *Heuchera* spp.
- *Begonia* spp.
- *Impatiens* spp.
- Clivia
- Agapanthus



Lamium



Hydrangeas



Delphiniums



Agapanthus

SOURCE MayFord mayford.co.za For more information on these plants, visit sana.co.za



Larger than life

The trend today is for statement-making planters – the bigger, the better

COMPILED BY **JO TRAPPITT** PHOTOGRAPHS **MICKY HOYLE, MARTIN HAHN** AND **SUPPLIED** PRODUCTS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND PRICES WERE CHECKED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRINT. SEE PAGE 6.

1. Victoria planter in rust, from R1 295, Block & Chisel. **2.** Kettal zigzag large planter, POR, Marlanteak. **3.** Slimline Soma planters, from R10 260 each, Indigenus. **4.** Iroko wood tuber planters, from R10 260, Indigenus. **5.** Three-ringed planter, R3 881, WilsonStone. **6.** Hancock steel planters, from R10 260 each, Indigenus. **7.** St Andrews planter, terracotta, R674, WilsonStone. **8.** Egg planter, R695, Weylandts. **9.** Vondom vase, small, R4 936, Robert Thomson & Co. **10.** Timber and metal trough planter, R5 245, Hope Garden Furniture.

SOURCES **Block & Chisel** blockandchisel.co.za **Hope Garden Furniture** hopegf.com **Indigenus** indigenus.co.za **Marlanteak** marlanteak.com **Robert Thomson & Co** Robert-thomson.com **Weylandts** weylandts.co.za **WilsonStone** wilsonstone.co.za

Volunteers WELCOME

Self-seeding plants are the secret to a colourful garden and require very little effort



Red flanders poppies, orange Californian poppies and blue forget-me-nots pop up yearly.

Quick and easy ways of adding colour to the garden are always welcome. One of the best is planting self-seeding annuals, herbs and perennials, which if you let them, form seeds and will reward you with a profusion of colour year after year. Over time, self-seeders weave their way through your garden so replanting or sowing again isn't necessary, although a little thinning out may be needed.

Self-seeders also save time and cost nothing and fortunately many, but not all, transplant easily so you can use them to fill gaps or pot them up for fellow garden enthusiasts. They're often a water-wise option in some dry gardens if their growth pattern corresponds with your rainy season. The beauty is that once you have them, you'll have them forever.

WHERE TO USE THEM

- In cottage gardens, informal rose gardens and wildflower meadows where they'll look very natural.
- In borders, flower beds and containers, and in dry gravel gardens.
- As underplanting beneath spring bulbs.
- For filling in gaps and bare ground between newly planted shrubs and creating abundant, low-cost, low-maintenance borders.
- In formal, structured gardens to soften the lines.

HOW TO GROW THEM

Many gardeners simply let these plants go to seed and wait to see what comes up the following year. For this to happen, stop deadheading them towards the end of the season and let them set seed. Once the seeds have matured and dried, you can let them fall where they are, or collect the seed pods. If you're concerned that your garden might be overrun by these volunteers, the latter method is best.

Clean and store the seeds in labelled brown paper packets or envelopes in a

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS **MARIANNE ALEXANDER**

sealed container and keep them in a cool, dry, dark place. Don't collect seeds from plants showing signs of disease. If you're starting out or sowing the seeds you've collected, check whether they have any prerequisites for germination. The majority need a covering of about 2–3mm of soil, but some like nicotiana, impatiens and foxgloves need light to germinate, and in nature, these would pop up where the soil has been disturbed and the seeds brought to the surface. So just press these into the soil. A few, like violas, germinate best in complete darkness.

WHEN TO SOW SEEDS

Seeds have an amazing inbred clock that tells them just when to start germinating, but generally cool-season plants, which pop up in late winter and flower in spring, should be sown in late autumn. Heat-tolerant summer flowerers such as cosmos and cleome, which bloom in the rainy season, germinate in late spring and early summer to coincide with the first rains. In the hot humid areas of KwaZulu-Natal, many summer flowers can be grown all year round.

GROWING TIPS

- Learn to identify self-seeders so you don't pull them out thinking they're weeds.
- Where seedlings are crowded, thinning out will result in bigger, stronger plants.
- If self-seeders need controlling, deadhead the mother plants regularly to prevent them setting seed or only let a few plants set seed.

WHERE TO FIND THEM

Gardening friends are usually happy to share volunteers and many can be found at rare plant sales. Grant Muller, of Seeds for Africa says, "If you want to buy seeds, look for open-pollinated flower seeds, as these flowers will produce generous quantities of viable seeds for planting the following season." Many modern-day plants have been so hybridised that second-generation seeds don't always germinate. In addition to the plants mentioned here, Grant recommends bachelor's buttons (cornflowers), zinnias and impatiens (busy Lizzies).







HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FAVOURITES

1 COSMOS

These remarkably drought-resistant annuals, originally from Mexico, have become naturalised and are often spotted lining roads. They come in white and shades of pink and have lovely lacy foliage. Like many self-seeders they do well in poorer soils. When sowing, cover the seeds lightly. The tall varieties may need support. Pick or deadhead them to prolong flowering, leaving a few at the end of the season to set seed.
Height: 75cm–1m. Yellow and orange varieties are shorter and more bushy.
When to sow: Late spring to early summer; in KZN: mid to late summer.
Flowering time: Mid to late summer.

2 POT MARIGOLD (*CALENDULA OFFICINALIS*)

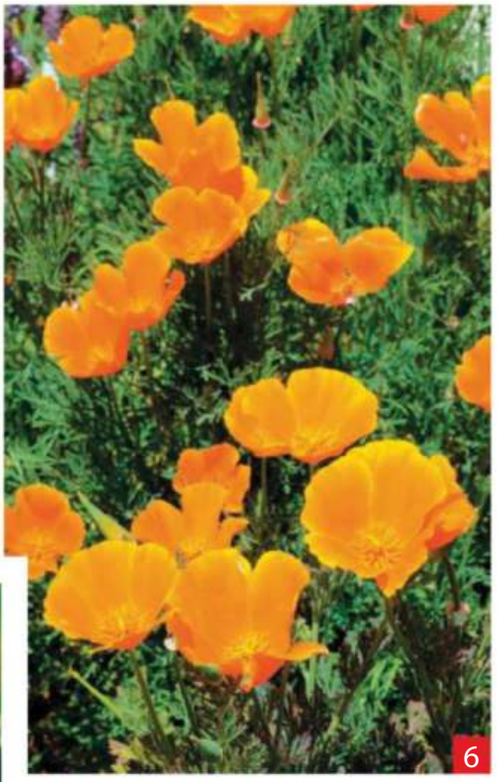
These cheerful sun-loving annuals do best in the cooler months and produce generous numbers of daisy-like flowers in yellow and orange and even apricot. Frost hardy, they like a good loamy soil. Cover their rough, crescent-shaped seeds with 2–3cm of soil. Add their edible petals to salads.
Height: 30–45cm.
When to sow: Mid to late summer.
Flowering time: Winter to early spring.

3 FORGET-ME-NOTS

The soft, pale-green foliage of these woodland plants, lifts the garden with their clusters of sky-blue flowers. Use them as a border, groundcover or between bulbs. They'll also grow in the sun provided it's watered. They're often confused with the sun-loving Chinese forget-me-not (*Cynoglossum*), which has darker flowers and lance-shaped grey leaves. This is also easy to grow and flowers in spring. The taller Cape-forget-me-not (*Anchusa capensis)*, an indigenous perennial with deep-blue flowers, will germinate better if seed is cooled for a day or two before sowing.
Height: 25–30cm.
When to sow: March, April and May.
Flowering time: Winter, until late summer in cooler areas. ▷









OTHER GOOD SELF-SEEDERS

Rose campion (*Silene* spp.), Namaqualand daisies (dimorphotheca), nasturtium, 'Queen Anne's lace, cleome, marigolds, ceratotheca, *Viola tricolor*, candytuft, linum, white *Nicotiana* 'Sylvestris', agrostemma and fairy primula (*Primula malacoides*).

4 LOVE-IN-THE MIST (*NIGELLA DAMASCENA*)

This is a delightful cottage plant and useful filler with wispy fern-like foliage and dainty, blue or white flowers. These are followed by interesting seedpods filled with jet-black seeds. Plant it in full or morning sun in well-drained soil.
Height: 45cm.
When to sow: Western Cape: in late winter to early spring; inland: spring to autumn; KZN: late summer.
Flowering time: Early summer, to autumn in some regions.

5 OPIUM, SHIRLEY AND FLANDERS POPPIES

All these poppies look delightful in the garden and often cross-pollinate. The tallest, the opium poppy (pictured), has grey-green leaves with large single or fluffy blooms in pink, but also red, white and maroon. The more elegant Shirley poppy is smaller with flowers in white, pink and red. The early-flowering Flanders poppy is the shortest and sometimes has a black cross in the centre.
Height: Opium 1,25m; Shirley 30–50cm; Flanders 30–40cm.
When to sow: The cooler months, from autumn, as they need a cold snap to germinate. You can also refrigerate the seeds for a month before sowing. Western Cape: April to September; inland: July to September; KZN: February to May.
Flowering time: Opium: late spring to early summer; Shirley: spring to summer; Flanders: spring to early summer.

6 CALIFORNIA POPPIES (*ESCHSCHOLZIA CALIFORNICA*)

These cheerful plants with their grey-green fern-like leaves and bright orange and yellow flowers love the sun, and although they grow almost anywhere, will also do well in light sandy soil. They dislike being transplanted. For an ongoing display, sow seed at intervals throughout the year.
Height: 30cm.
When to sow: Western Cape: winter to spring; inland: spring and late summer; KZN: late summer to autumn and spring.
Flowering time: September with the main flush in October.

7 VIRGINIA STOCKS (*MALCOLMIA MARITIMA*)

These small bushy plants are covered with neat four-petalled flowers in shades of pink, mauve, rose and lilac. Fast growing and fragrant, they're good as a border or in drifts.
Height: 25cm.
When to sow: Western Cape: late summer to winter; KZN: late summer to autumn; inland: mid to the end of summer.
Flowering time: Late winter to spring and summer in cool moist areas.

SOURCE Seeds for Africa seedsforafrica.co.za



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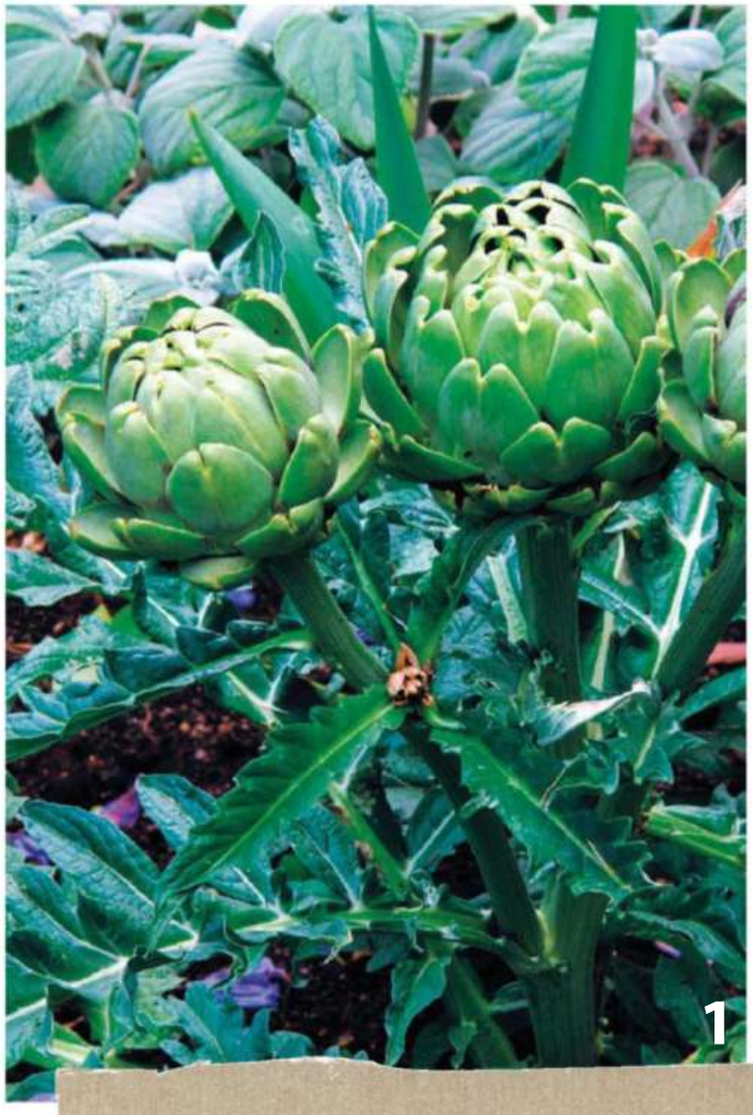
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Easy come, *easy grow*

Plant these edibles once and they'll deliver an abundant harvest year after year, says vegetable growing expert, Jane Griffiths

Once established, these hardy perennials are water wise and low maintenance, but because they'll be in the ground for many years, prepare the soil well before planting. Most require well-drained, fertile soil enriched with plenty of organic matter such as compost and well-rotted manure. Choose a sunny location, making sure taller perennials won't block the sun. Many edible perennials can also be planted in existing flowerbeds.

1 GLOBE ARTICHOKES

Prized for their striking globes and grey, fuzzy foliage, artichokes grow up to 2m high and almost as wide. They're suitable for larger vegetable gardens and perennial flowerbeds.

Growing tips: Artichokes are easily grown from seedlings. Best in full sun, they like moist, well-drained soil and ample water, especially in their first year. After harvesting, fertilise with Talborne Vita Fruit & Flower 3:1:5 and add compost. They'll survive drought but won't produce well if they become too dry. Mulch the roots well in winter.

Harvesting: The edible part is the immature flower bud. This globe comprises the fleshy bases of the flower bracts and the heart to which they're attached. Harvest in the second year after planting. In early October, look for the central bud which ripens first, followed by the smaller ones on side shoots. Cut the heads off while they're green, tight and compact.

TEXT **JANE GRIFFITHS** PHOTOGRAPHS **JANE GRIFFITHS** AND **KEITH KNOWLTON**



2 SORREL

Sorrel, with its tangy, lemony flavour, is a hardy green that comes in two varieties: French, with green leaves, and the milder bloody sorrel (pictured), with striking red-veined leaves.

Growing tips: It grows easily from seed and likes full sun and well-drained soil. In late summer it forms tall flower spikes. If left to seed, sorrel can become a weed, so keep cutting the flowers off as this encourages leafy growth to continue into winter.

Harvesting: Pick younger leaves for salads, as the older leaves become tough.

3 JERUSALEM ARTICHOKES

When this member of the sunflower family was first discovered in Europe, it was called girasole, the Italian word for sunflower. Over time, this anglicised to Jerusalem. In spite of its name, however, this vegetable has nothing to do with the globe artichoke or the city of Jerusalem.





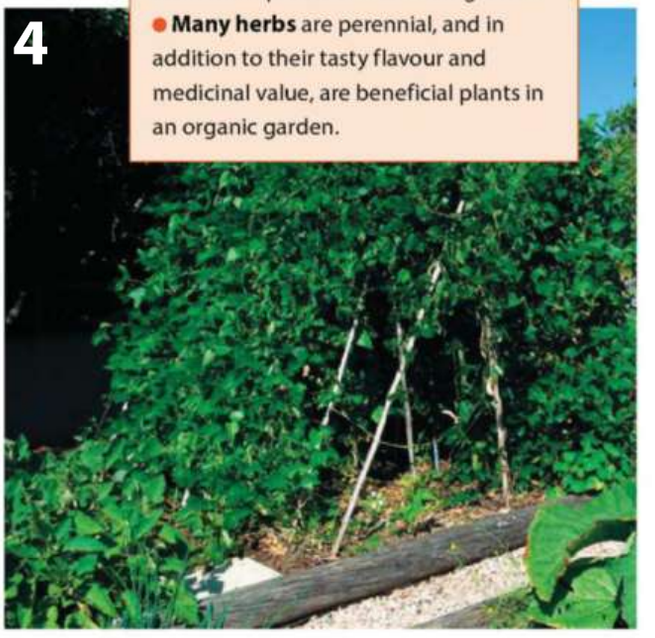
Growing tips: They are grown from root cuttings, available at some nurseries in autumn and winter. In early spring, a few days before planting, cut the roots into pieces, each with a growing point. Bury them about 7cm deep in loose, fertile soil. Keep moist until new growth appears. They're vulnerable to damage from wind and heavy rain and need a protected spot or support.

Harvesting: Digging up the roots after the first frosts makes them sweeter. In dry winter areas, the roots can be left in the ground and harvested throughout winter, leaving a sufficient amount to sprout again in spring. ▷



OTHER SUITABLE PERENNIALS

- **Swiss chard** develops a thick, gnarled stem with sprouts of fresh new growth.
- **Many herbs** are perennial, and in addition to their tasty flavour and medicinal value, are beneficial plants in an organic garden.





4 RUNNER BEANS

Some varieties of semi-hardy runner beans are perennial, such as the Scarlet Runner with its brilliant red flowers (pictured), and Muntings Runner with its eye-popping purple beans. These die back in winter and pop up again in spring. They're available from Livingseeds.

Growing tips: All runner beans need regular moisture and full sun. They're tall climbers and need strong support such as an arch or wigwam. Mulch well once they've died back and feed in spring with organic 3:1:5 fertiliser.

Harvesting: Pick the young beans, leaving some pods on the plant to mature to full size. Harvest once the pods have completely dried. Remove the beans and store them in an airtight container for winter dishes.

5 ASPARAGUS

A hardy perennial, asparagus is a beautiful addition to the vegetable garden with feathery fern-like foliage in midsummer. Once established, they crop for up to 20 years, each plant yielding nine to 12 spears per cutting season.

Growing tips: Plant seedlings 90cm apart in early October in full sun to partial shade in rich, well-drained soil. Although drought tolerant, they require sufficient water during dry weather until well-established. In late summer, feed with organic 3:1:5 fertislier before the foliage turns yellow and dies down. Mulch well.

Harvesting: To allow a strong crown to develop underground, only begin harvesting from four-year-old plants. Wait until a spear is about 20cm long and snap or cut it off just above the ground. Harvest spears for the first six to eight weeks, then leave the plant to grow into ferns. GH

SOURCE ***Jane's Delicious Urban Gardening*** by Jane Griffiths (Sunbird Publishers, jonathanball.co.za) **Livingseeds** livingseeds.co.za **Talborne Organics** talborne.co.za

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summer lunch

All IN THE *family*

Sarah de Lange, co-author of *Gem: A Cookbook of Family Treasures*, prepares a few family favourites



MENU

STRAWBERRY, BASIL AND LEMON ICED TEA

CHILLED MINTY PEA SOUP

TUNA PÂTÉ WITH CRUDITÉS

CHEESAS

SUMMER PASTA

STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM

TEXT **LISA VAN DER KNAAP** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANDREA CALDWELL** THESE RECIPES ARE SUPPLIED BY THE ENTERTAINERS, AND WHILE EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO ENSURE THEY ARE CORRECT, THEY HAVEN'T BEEN TESTED BY *GARDEN AND HOME*



Eloise Rossouw, Sarah de Lange and Alexandra Stuart-Reckling



Judith Slettevold, Susan Swingler, Maria Findt and Jaqui Luksmidas





"Growing up, I wasn't really into sports, so I used to cook for fun," recalls Jo'burg food stylist and cookbook author, Sarah de Lange. Sarah's mother, who was born in America, had a host of recipes such as corn bread and chocolate chip cookies. "She'd let my sister and I make soufflé, baked Alaska and all sorts of other culinary concoctions. I didn't realise it at the time, but food was to become my strongest influence and would affect who I've become today," says Sarah.

Sarah studied catering management at hotel school, but after working long hours, she opted for a stint in the corporate world where she met her husband, Gavin. "We both share a love of food, and when we lived in London, we'd have dinner parties on the floor of our tiny flat," she laughs. "Back in South Africa, when I was on maternity leave, I started baking from home for various restaurants in Parkhurst and 44 Stanley, and set up the menu for Motherland Coffee."

The next step was her first cookbook, *The Cookbook for Families*, which she co-wrote with her good friend, Maria Findt. It was such a success they recently published their second one, *Gem: A Cookbook of Family Treasures*. Many of the recipes in *Gem* have been passed down through the generations; one even dates back to 1888. "I love the history behind recipes," explains Sarah. "We live in such a fast-paced world and often I think that people don't even know the basics because recipes are seldom handed down anymore. This is why we wanted to do this book," she adds.

With their passion for food, Sarah and Gavin often entertain at home. "Invariably we end up having lunch parties. We invite a few families over and very soon there are 20 kids running around the garden." Luckily, Sarah's daughters, Hannah (11) and Rachel (9), aren't fussy eaters; they were fed things like olives and hummus from an early age, so nothing is off limits.

Today Sarah's summer lunch for friends includes some of *Gem's* easy, wholesome recipes. Although Sarah loves to put a lot of effort into the table, she's asked Eloise Rossouw of Trendy Settings to help with this table setting. The muted colour palette – a melange of soft pinks and purples showcased on wood, cut glass and sterling silver – is a sophisticated nod to the season.

"Cooking for me isn't just about the recipes, it's about feeding a family and stitching all the bits of daily life together. Just like my own childhood, I'm shaping my family by the food I make and sitting together over delicious meals, we're creating memories along the way." ▷





STRAWBERRY, BASIL AND LEMON ICED TEA

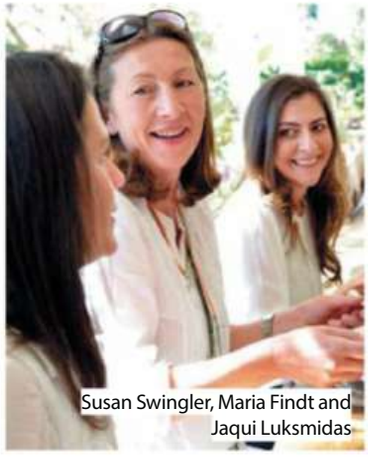
(Makes 1,5 litres)

1ℓ water
5 Rooibos teabags
1 punnet strawberries, hulled and halved
½ cup sugar
2 cups apple juice
handful basil leaves, plus extra for garnishing
rind of one lemon

TO SERVE:

ice

1. Boil 750ml of the water and make a large pot of Rooibos tea. Set aside and allow to brew for 3–5 minutes.
2. Place the strawberries in a large jug.
3. In a saucepan, add the remaining 250ml water, sugar and apple juice.
4. Bring to the boil stirring until the sugar has dissolved.
5. Remove from the heat, add the basil and lemon rind and allow to infuse in the syrup for 10 minutes.
6. Strain the syrup over the strawberries, discard the basil and lemon rind and allow to cool. Add the tea and refrigerate until chilled.
7. Pour over ice and garnish with fresh basil.



Susan Swingler, Maria Findt and Jaqui Luksmidas

CHILLED MINTY PEA SOUP

(Serves 6)

4T butter
1 onion, chopped
1T sugar
1 potato, cut into cubes
750ml chicken or vegetable stock
250g spinach
250g frozen peas
salt and pepper, to taste
1 bunch fresh mint, chopped

TO SERVE:

mascarpone
fresh mint

1. In a large pot, melt the butter and fry the onion for 5 minutes.
2. Add the sugar and the potato and pour in the stock.
3. Bring to the boil and add the spinach and peas. Reduce the heat, season with salt and pepper and simmer for 20 minutes.
4. Add the mint and simmer for a further 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and blend until smooth. Adjust the seasoning, if necessary.
5. Cool completely then chill in the fridge.
6. Serve chilled with a dollop of mascarpone and a sprig of mint.

TUNA PÂTÉ WITH CRUDITÉS

(Serves 8)

2 tins tuna, drained
1 tin butter beans, drained
2T mayonnaise
5–6 drops Tabasco sauce
juice of half a lemon
½t each of thyme and oregano
salt and pepper, to taste
1 red onion, chopped

TO SERVE:

sundried tomato pesto







QUICK CHAT WITH THE COOK

My cooking style is spontaneous and innovative; I like to work with the ingredients I have on hand.
No dinner party is complete without good friends and great wine.
The kitchen gadget I couldn't live without is my KitchenAid food processor. I use it for all sorts of things like making fresh pasta.
My favourite comfort food is home-made chicken soup.
My store cupboard staples are balsamic glaze (a must for salads), olive oil, black pepper and Maldon salt. I use it in everything including chocolate chip cookies.
The best thing I ever ate was Gavin's grandmother's chocolate cake. It's so good you can have it for breakfast.
My go-to party dish is tacos. I love to serve Mexican food for a crowd because it's always extremely festive.

olive tapenade
handful fresh micro herbs
carrots, cherry tomatoes and cucumber, sliced lengthwise
cottage cheese, avocados
pita bread, Melba toast, bread sticks and crackers

1. Mix all the tuna pâté ingredients together and blend until smooth.
2. Scoop the pâté into three small serving bowls.
3. Spread a thin layer of sundried tomato pesto over the top of the pâté in one bowl, a layer of olive tapenade on the second bowl and sprinkle micro herbs over the last.
4. Serve on a large platter with the crudités, cottage cheese, avo, pita bread, Melba toast and bread sticks.

CHEESAS

(Serves 6)

2T mayonnaise
½ tub cream cheese, spring onion flavour or plain
2½ cups Cheddar cheese, grated
½t salt
1 loaf rye bread, sliced
1 bunch fresh asparagus
chilli (optional)
TO SERVE:
micro herbs

1. Set the oven to grill.
2. Mix the mayonnaise, cream cheese, half a cup of grated Cheddar cheese and the salt in a blender. If you like spicy food, add a little chilli.
3. Place the rye bread on a baking tray and spread each slice with a generous amount of the cream cheese mixture.
4. Blanch the asparagus in boiling water for about 2–3 minutes, then refresh by submerging in cold water for a minute.
5. Top each slice of bread with a few asparagus and sprinkle with the remaining grated Cheddar. Grill until the cheese has melted.
6. Serve immediately garnished with extra asparagus and a few micro herbs. ▷





Hannah and Rachel de Lange

SUMMER PASTA

(Serves 4)

1 packet bacon
1T olive oil
1 onion, chopped
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 large aubergine, chopped into cubes
1 tin whole peeled tomatoes
1 bunch oregano, chopped
1 chilli, deseeded and chopped (optional)
500g spaghetti

TO SERVE:

Parmesan shavings
rocket leaves
1 bunch fresh basil, chopped

1. Fry the bacon in the olive oil. Once it's crispy, remove and set aside.
2. Add the chopped onion and garlic to the pan and fry.
3. Add the aubergine, tomatoes and oregano and fry for a few more minutes. Add one chilli if you like it hot.
4. Cut the bacon into bite-size pieces, stir it into the sauce and simmer for 10 minutes.
5. While the sauce is cooking, boil the pasta until al dente.
6. Serve the pasta topped with the sauce, Parmesan shavings and fresh herbs.

COOK'S TIP: All the ingredients can also be placed in separate dishes, and except for the fried bacon, served cold, so guests can choose their own toppings.

STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM

(Makes 1,5 litres)

500g fresh strawberries
1½ cups sugar
juice of one lemon
juice of one orange
1 cup fresh cream

TO SERVE:

strawberries (optional)

1. Liquidise the strawberries in a blender and add the sugar, lemon juice and orange juice.
2. Whip the cream until thick and gently fold into the fruit and sugar mixture.
3. Pour into an old ice cream tub or plastic container and place in the freezer.
4. Freeze for 6–8 hours, giving it a quick stir every half hour for the first 2–3 hours. In this recipe, stirring isn't essential but helps the ice cream freeze without icicles.
5. Serve the ice cream in individual bowls topped with fresh strawberries.

COOK'S TIP: Place scoops of ice cream in a serving dish in the freezer so it looks pretty and is all ready to serve.



WIN! We're giving away a signed copy of *Gem: A Cookbook of Family Treasures* by Maria Findt and Sarah de Lange worth R225. To enter, **SMS GEM**, your name and e-mail address to 48406. An SMS costs R1,50, errors will be billed and free SMSes don't apply. For full Ts&Cs, see page 143.

SOURCES **Sarah de Lange** 083 287 2215 or GEMfamilycookbook@gmail.com **Trendy Settings** trendysettings.co.za





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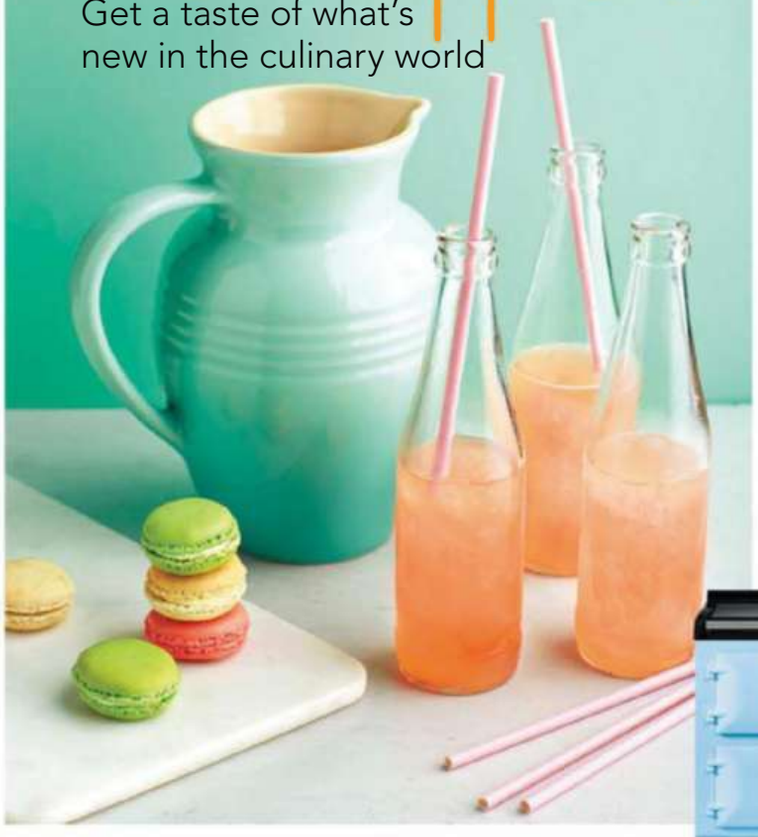
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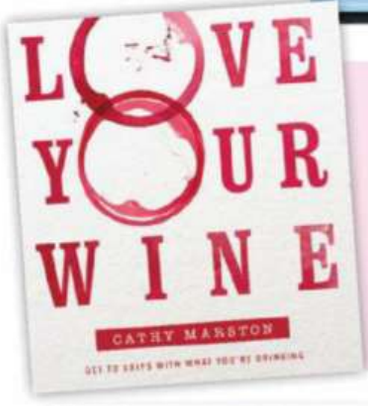


Heart warmer

We've put the classic AGA cooker, POR, on our Christmas wish list this year. It's equipped with energy efficient roasting, baking, simmering and warming ovens, and comes in a wide selection of colours. See agaliving.co.za

Cool **Cuisine**

Cool Mint is the new pastel hue in Le Creuset's popular cookware range. The stoneware jug, R270, looks fresh on summer tables and is ideal for summer punches like this pink cranberry lemonade (pictured above). Find the recipe at gardenandhome.co.za. Visit lecreuset.co.za



WINE **101**

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Dinner a deux

WIN!

The Greenhouse restaurant at The Cellars-Hohenort in Cape Town has been revamped. Expect relaxed yet sophisticated ambience and a modern South African-style menu by award-winning chef Peter Tempelhoff. Call 021 795 6226 or visit greenhouserestaurant.co.za



WIN! We're giving away a five-course dinner for two with sommelier-paired wines at The Greenhouse Restaurant in Constantia, Cape Town worth R1 800*. To enter, visit gardenandhome.co.za

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The wine show for everyday wine drinkers takes place at Weylandts in Brooklyn Mall. Tickets are R150 pp at webtickets.co.za

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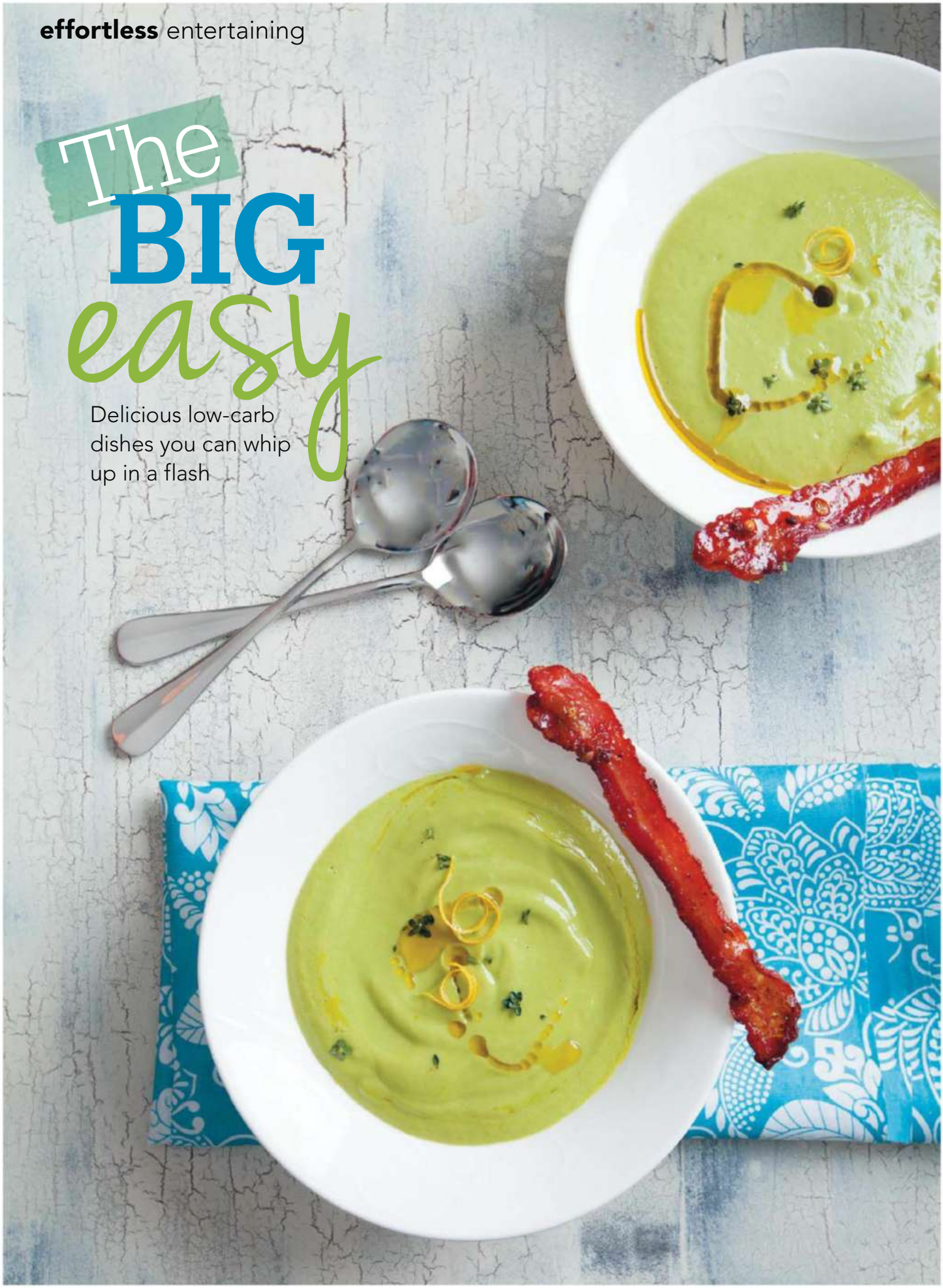


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RECIPES AND STYLING **LYN WOODWARD** PHOTOGRAPHS **CHRISTOPH HOFFMANN**

AVOCADO SOUP WITH CRISPY CANDIED BACON

(Serves 4–6)

FOR THE AVOCADO SOUP:

15ml olive or avocado oil
1 onion, peeled and diced
1 garlic clove, crushed
2 ripe avocados, flesh scooped out
15ml lemon juice
30ml torn basil leaves
10ml chopped mint leaves
800ml chicken or vegetable stock
salt and black pepper, to taste
60ml cream

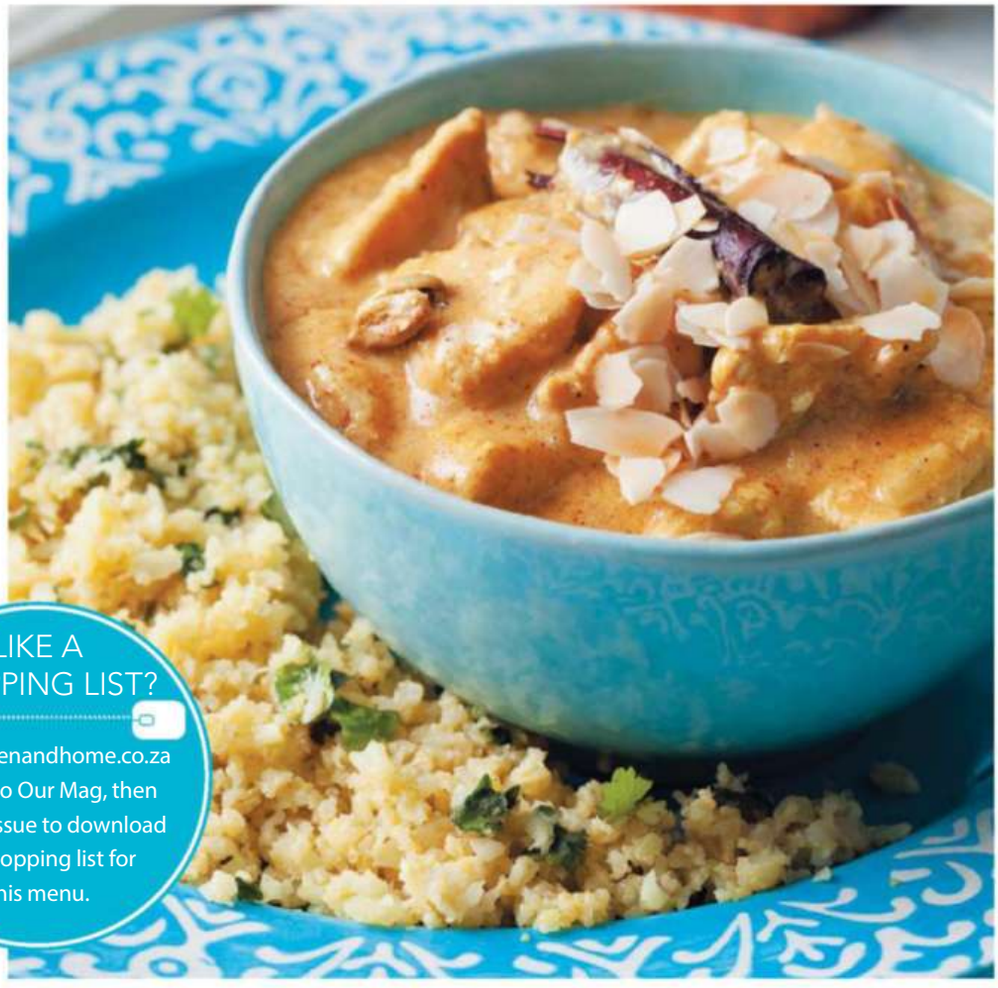
FOR THE CANDIED BACON:

5ml coriander seeds
3ml cumin seeds
2ml dried red chilli flakes
1ml paprika
60ml soft brown sugar
black pepper, to taste
8–12 rashers streaky bacon

TO SERVE:

olive or avocado oil, for drizzling
lemon zest
micro herbs

1. To make the avocado soup: heat the oil in a pan and fry the onion and garlic over a low heat for 6–7 minutes or until translucent and tender. Remove from the heat and allow to cool completely.
2. Transfer the mixture to a food processor and add the remaining ingredients. Blend in batches until smooth and creamy.
3. To make the candied bacon: preheat the oven to 180°C.
4. Crush the coriander and cumin seeds in a pestle and mortar. Stir in the chilli flakes, paprika and soft brown sugar. Season with freshly ground black pepper.
5. Arrange the bacon in a single layer on a grill and place a foil-covered baking tray underneath to catch the cooking juices. Sprinkle half the mixture over the bacon and bake for 10 minutes. Turn the bacon over and top with the remaining spice mixture. Return to the oven and cook for 3–4 minutes or until golden and crispy. Drain on paper towel.
6. Serve the soup chilled, topped with a swirl of olive or avocado oil, lemon zest, some micro herbs and the candied bacon.



LIKE A SHOPPING LIST?

Visit gardenandhome.co.za and go to Our Mag, then Current Issue to download the shopping list for this menu.

COOK'S TIP: You can make this soup the day before. Squeeze some fresh lemon juice over the surface and keep it in the fridge in a container with a tight-fitting lid until ready to use.

CREAMY CHICKEN KORMA WITH CAULIFLOWER CORIANDER RICE

(Serves 4)

FOR THE CHICKEN KORMA:

15ml olive or coconut oil
1 onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
500g chicken breasts or skinless and boneless thigh fillets, cubed
30ml fresh ginger, finely grated
15ml–30ml korma curry paste
1 cinnamon stick
5 cardamon pods, lightly bruised
250ml chicken stock
400ml low-fat coconut milk
15ml cornflour, slaked in 30ml cold water
salt and black pepper, to taste

FOR THE CAULI-CORIANDER RICE:

600g cauliflower florets, trimmed
10ml butter or coconut oil
3ml ground cumin
45ml chopped coriander leaves
salt and black pepper, to taste

TO SERVE:

60g flaked almonds, roasted in a dry pan
fresh coriander (optional)

1. To make the chicken korma: heat the oil in a pan and gently fry the onion and garlic over a low heat for 4–5 minutes. Increase the heat and add the chicken.
2. Fry for a further 4–5 minutes. Stir in the ginger, korma curry paste, cinnamon stick and cardamom pods, frying for 1 minute.
3. Stir in the chicken stock, coconut milk and cornflour mixture. Bring to the boil, stirring, then simmer and cook for 10–12 minutes or until the chicken is tender.
4. To make the cauliflower rice: place the cauliflower florets in a food processor and process until finely ground. Transfer to a microwavable bowl, cover and microwave on high for 2 minutes. Stir in the rest of the ingredients and season to taste.
5. Season the chicken and scatter the toasted almonds over the top before serving with the cauli-coriander rice. Garnish with fresh coriander, if desired.

VINTAGE *trails*

Sussex, tucked away in the south east corner of England, boasts not only stunning scenery, glorious walks and striking architecture, but also award-winning wines, as Connall Oosterbroek discovers



Mention to a South African that the English are making some great sparkling wines and you're likely to be met with some scepticism. This was certainly my reaction when an English friend persuaded me to extend my trip to the UK and visit the winemaking region in Sussex in the south east of England.

After meeting up in London, we set off south along the notorious M25 and little over an hour later we pull into the potholed car park of The Bull, a pub in Ditchling, in the heart of the winemaking area. A former coaching inn, it's all beams and log fires, even in summer. Immediately I spot a bottle of Sussex wine on the shelf which the barman tells me was made just five miles away.

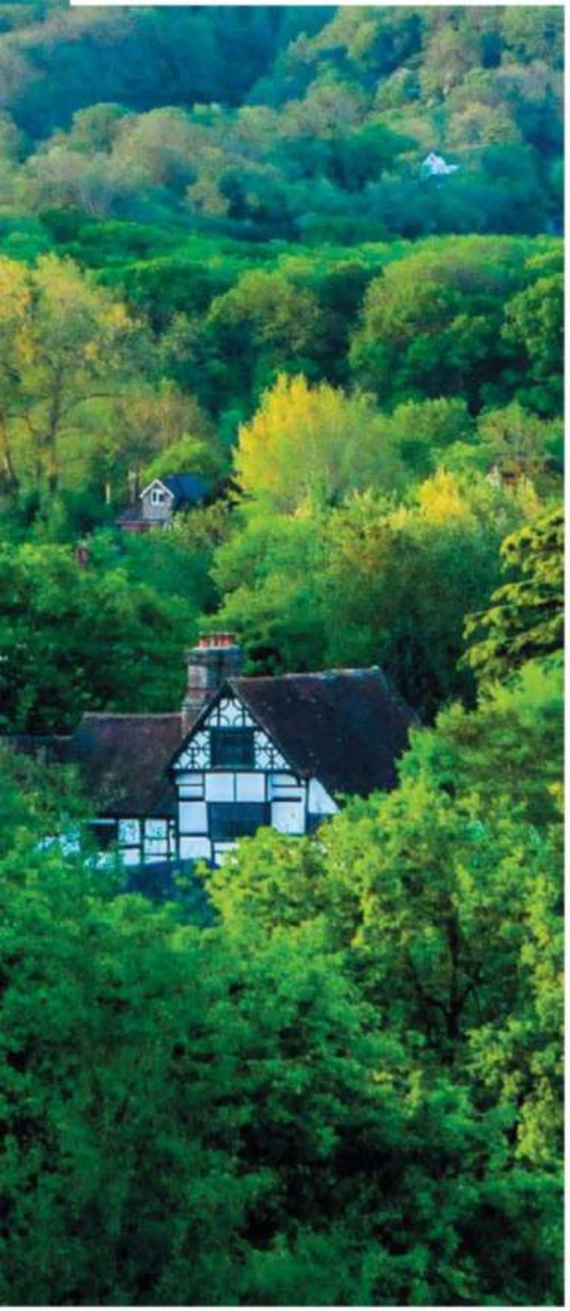
"The Romans first brought the wines," explains a ruddy-faced gent at the bar. "The soil's the same as Champagne – you know, in France."

Right then, however, I was more in need of an old-fashioned pint, but later that evening after a dinner of ale-battered cod fillet, chips and peas, I retire to my comfortable room overlooking Ditchling's medieval high street to do a touch of research. I discover that Champagne is just a 90-mile crow's flight away and

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS **CONNALL OOSTERBROEK**







the soil and weather conditions here are ideal for making top-class bubblies. Just as the producers in Champagne have restricted the use of its name to those bubblies produced in the area, Sussex growers are becoming protective over their wine and want a patent to rank it alongside such British culinary icons as the Cornish pasty and Stilton cheese.

Dating back to Saxon times, Ditchling was first recorded in 765 AD and makes a good base from which to explore the surrounding area and the South Downs. With a population of just over 2 000, don't expect a bustling metropolis, although it does get busy over weekends when day visitors descend. It's well worth spending a morning wandering along its lanes visiting St. Margaret's Church, founded in the 11th century, and the Museum of Art+Craft. End this off with a pint of locally brewed Harvey's and lunch in Ditchling's other great pub, The White Horse.

With a very pleasant morning behind us, we decide to head for the hills and our satnav directs us along narrow country lanes to the South Downs National Park. The South Downs are a ribbon of chalk hills with a gentle meandering majesty spanning the length of the county.



CONNALL'S TRAVEL TIPS

MUST-SEE SIGHT: Ditchling, for its medieval charm, the Museum of Art+Craft and The Bull.

NICE TO KNOW: Winter days are short but summer days are long; sunrise is at 5am, sunset at 9pm, perfect for a pre-breakfast or post-dinner stroll.

ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO PACK: A pair of walking boots in summer or wellies in winter.

MOST DELICIOUS BITES: Pub lunches at The White Horse Pub in Ditchling, The Shepherd & Dog at Fulking, just north of Brighton, The Royal Oak at Poynings and The Jolly Sportsman in South Downs National Park.

Ancient hill forts and beacons track their green contours, witnesses to the Roman legions many centuries ago, and more recently, the Battle of Britain which occurred in the skies overhead.

Leaving the car in a National Trust car park, we walk along the crest of the Downs. Looking north, there are far-reaching ▷

THIS SPREAD, LEFT TO RIGHT: ● The village of Ditchling at dawn looking towards the South Downs. ● The Shepherd & Dog at Fulking offers excellent pub food. ● The lunch menu at the White Horse in Ditchling.





views over the Sussex weald (that's open rolling uplands to South Africans) and the neat rows of vines are easy to pick out. To the south, we can spot Brighton and the English Channel beyond and the Amex Stadium. The stadium's white arcs were inspired by the chalk-laced paintings of early 20th-century artist Eric Ravilious who walked and painted these hills.

Sussex in general, and the Downs in particular, is a rambler's dream. The countryside is criss-crossed with footpaths that take you past ancient churches, delightful homes and picturesque farms where sheep graze and vines grow heavy with fruit. Ask your hosts or any one of the many dog walkers you pass for a good route. It can be easy to get a little lost, but if you keep the Downs as a general beacon and follow the Public Footpath signs, you'll be alright. This is the English countryside after all.

Not being a great walker, I was initially a little wary of all the walks my mate had planned. I ended up loving every second and wishing I had time for more. The terrain is gentle, the scenery quintessentially English (there are few places more beautiful than the English countryside in summer), and if you ask one of the locals for directions, there will be a local pub somewhere along the way to rest up for a while. Some pubs to work into your route are The Shepherd & Dog at Fulking, The Royal Oak at Poynings (particularly for its food), and east of Ditchling, The Jolly Sportsman at East Chiltington.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

GETTING THERE: SAA, Virgin Atlantic and British Airways have direct daily flights from Jo'burg to London.
GETTING ABOUT: In Sussex, avoid the A27, and for the best scenery, stick where possible to smaller roads around the South Downs National Park. If touring by car, catch a train from London to Gatwick and hire a car from one of the large car hire companies.
USEFUL WEBSITE: For a list of vineyards in Sussex and those that offer tours, visit englishwineproducers.co.uk. Booking in advance is essential.
VISAS: South Africans need a general tourist visa to visit the United Kingdom. Visit visa4uk.fco.gov.uk

I had to remind myself of the other reason I'd come to Sussex and that was the wines. The next day we climb back into the car, and after several missed turns, we find the Wiston Estate Winery where winemaker Dermot Sugrue takes us on a tour. Dermot is a charming Irishman and as soon as he notices my South African accent insists that I speak to his boss Pip Goring, who's originally from Cape Town. He punches a number into his cell and passes it to me. "Here's Pip", he says chirpily.

Pip married into the Goring family, owners of Wiston, 34 years ago but winemaking is in her blood. "When my French Huguenot ancestors arrived in the Cape, they planted vines in Franschhoek,"



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ● The church at Westmeston. ● Old-fashioned phone booth at Westmeston. ● Blue bells growing under an English oak.

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ● Dermot Sugrue checks the quality of a barrel of Wiston's finest bubbly. ● Jim and Anja Nolan taste some of their award-winning Sussex sparkling wine. ● The Ditchling Museum of Art+Craft is well worth a visit. ● A walk through the Downs reveals wonderful scenery and picturesque homes. ● The Nolan family enjoy lunch in their vineyard nestled at the base of the South Downs. ● A stroll in the country wouldn't be complete without encountering some curious sheep.













she says. "So to plant a vineyard here in Sussex where the soil is so similar to Champagne and Epernay, is a dream come true. Our wines have won gold awards with the French only taking silver and bronze in these categories."

Dermot's dedication to winemaking mirrors Pip's. He caresses the slats of the winery's traditional coquard basket press – the only one of its kind in England – and inserts a large needle-like pipette into the barrel. He empties the pipette into a glass, slurps the sunshine-coloured liquid and noisily ejects it onto the stone floor. "Fancy a taste?" Clearly it would be rude not to, but so good and fresh is this sparkling wine that I simply can't bring myself to spit it out and down the hatch it goes. I feel I should apologise for my reflex reaction, but I think Dermot's used to this.

Wiston gained the royal seal of approval, when in March, the Queen launched an ocean-going liner at Southampton with a nebuchadnezzar of Wiston Estate Brut NV. The estate already hosts wine-themed events such as the Wiston Weekend, which is taking place at the end of this month and offers a mix of jazz and wine.

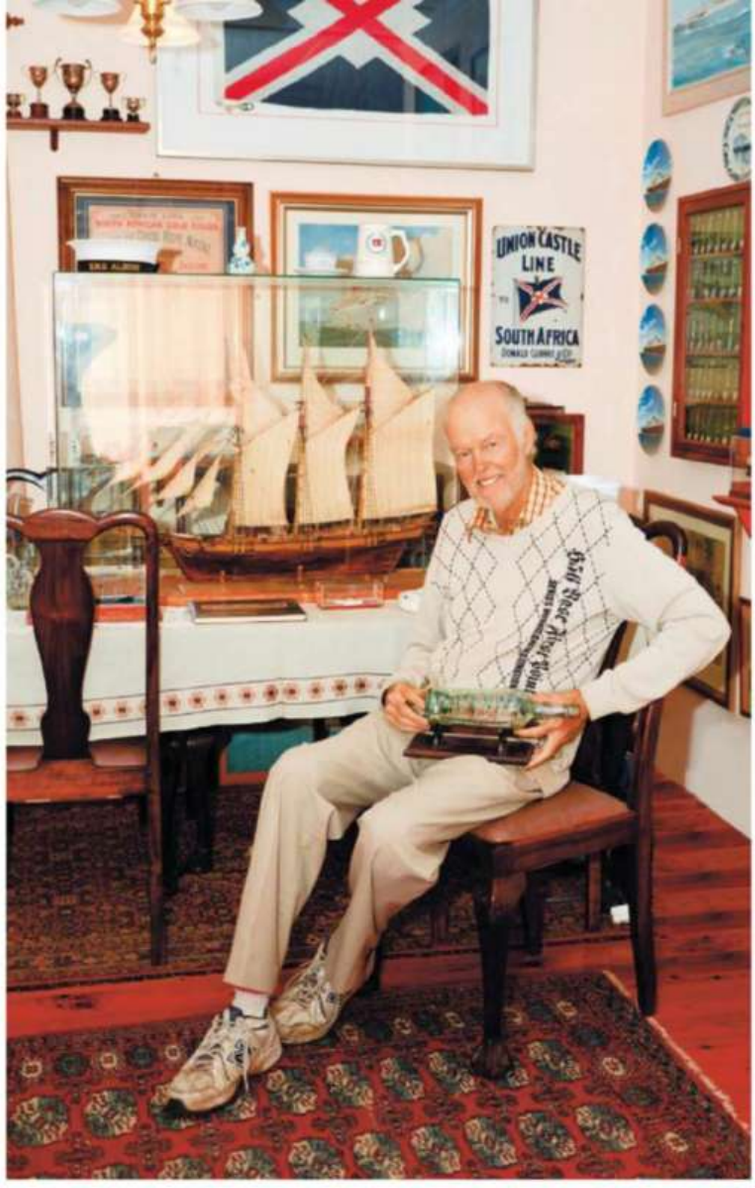
Another vineyard on our wine-tasting route is Black Dog Hill Vineyard, which has a splendid location on the aptly named Underhill Lane right at the base of the Downs. The lane is also home to children's books author Raymond Briggs and provides the setting for his Christmas fairy tale, *The Snowman*.

The owners of Black Dog, Jim and Anja Nolan, arrive by tractor. Jim spent 25 years working in London, but they're now part of a new breed of boutique producers familiar with every square inch of their chalky soil. "Winemaking here is very labour intensive and perhaps lesser wineries might cut corners," they say. "Not us. We insist it's all done carefully by hand." Recently their Classic Cuvee 2011 scooped up gold at the International Wine and Spirit Competition, trouncing international brands. A black dog called Murphy joins us. But he's not the dog after which the vineyard is named. That's a ghostly black dog said to roam the area bearing the souls of the departed to their final resting place.

We're invited to join the family for lunch in the vineyard. Jim sends a cork skyward and we sample their award-winning Classic Cuvee. It's a perfect summer's day, and we toast the health of Black Dog Hill and Sussex wine. Now there's just one question: who's driving back? GH

Collecting maritime memorabilia with *Gerald Flack*

A chance visit to the docks triggered this Cape Town collector's love of all things marine





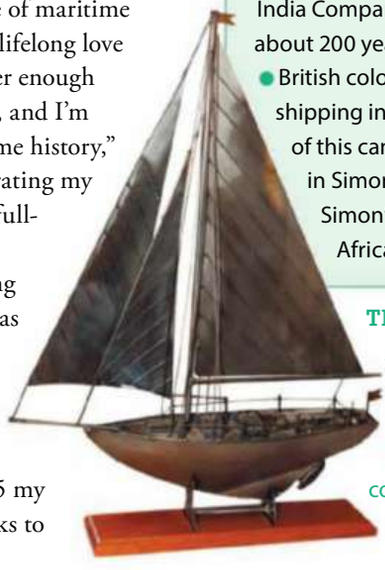
Gerald Flack's home is a treasure trove of maritime memorabilia and is testament to his lifelong love affair with the sea. "I just can't gather enough knowledge or nautical knick-knacks, and I'm passionate about researching and sharing maritime history," says this former engineering administrator. "Curating my collection and keeping it shipshape as such, is a full-time job."

Gerald's collection is a broad ensemble focusing largely on South African shipping memorabilia, as it's more readily available. Ship models of every size and description are on display and visits from fellow shipping enthusiasts are regular.

Gerald remembers the exact day when his maritime mania started, "On 12 November 1945 my mother walked me down to the Cape Town docks to

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- Our country has a rich maritime history. Since Portuguese explorer Bartholomew Dias rounded the Cape, we've been considered one of the world's most important sea trade routes and a strategic naval stronghold.
- With the arrival of the Dutch settlers in 1652, the Dutch East India Company (VOC) dominated trading and shipping for about 200 years.
- British colonisation strongly influenced South Africa's shipping industry with its great seafaring traditions. Evidence of this can be seen at the South African Naval Museum in Simon's Town. What's interesting to note is that the Simon's Town Naval Base was only handed back to South Africa in 1952.

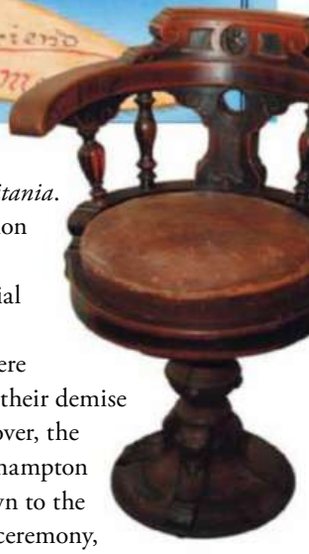


THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: *Asian Prince* is one of the larger, highly detailed models measuring around 1m in length. Originally radio controlled, this fine vessel is now a display model. ● Gerald Flack in his home museum of maritime collectables. ● Gerald bought this beautifully crafted steel model of a 36" yacht in London.

TEXT **DERICK KIRK** PHOTOGRAPHS **SALIE VAN HEERDEN**







see the Cunard Line's magnificent *Aquitania*. I was so impressed that it started a passion that would last a lifetime.

"The Union-Castle Line holds a special place in my heart. Growing up in Cape Town, the lavender-hulled mail ships were part of everyday life," he recalls. "Until their demise in the early 1970s when jet travel took over, the line had a regular service between Southampton and Cape Town. I remember going down to the dock as a boy to be part of a departure ceremony, cheering and throwing streamers."

Collecting Golden Age (1920 – 1950) shipping line memorabilia is much harder than it used to be. "A few years ago you could get souvenir spoons, rings, postcards, menus, passenger lists, signs and portholes for next to nothing at every second-hand dealer in Cape Town. That's certainly not the case anymore," he says. Some of Gerald's most prized Union-Castle items are large promotional posters that he has had framed. "One of my most cherished items is an enamelled sign from the *Deutsche Ost-Afrika Linie* (German East African Line) that I bought on auction. The shipping line tried to purchase it from me for their archives in Hamburg, but I declined the offer."

Like most collectors, Gerald relishes the stories that come with his collection. "Each piece has a special tale. If it's not the history of the item, then it's the way I acquired the piece. Sharing those stories is what makes this obsession so enjoyable."

TIPS FOR ASPIRING COLLECTORS

- If you're limited by space and budget, start with shipping ephemera (printed material). Programmes, menus and catalogues can be stored in photo albums and scrapbooks.
- "Shipping lines sold inexpensive branded items from their onboard gift shops. Spoons, plates, powder compacts and thimbles with ship imagery can comfortably slot into existing collections," says Ingrid Aaron of Kalk Bay Antiques Centre.
- Larger items such as furnishings, lifebelts, signage and bells can sometimes be found for sale when ships are scrapped. Internet sites like eBay.com or local site bidorbuy.co.za regularly list items from dealers. Also check Junk Mail.
- Gerald also collects vintage travel postcards. Shipping postcards are easy to find, and if you're lucky, you'll get an interesting message, stamp or postmark on the back of an old one.
- If you're interested in our shipping history, take part in one of the gatherings or talks hosted by the Ship Society of South Africa in Cape Town. The 60-year old society also has an interesting collection on display in their rooms close to the Foreshore.



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ● A promotional poster of the *Balmoral Castle* brought in London. Gerald had to take cover in a telephone booth for half an hour to avoid damage from an unexpected downpour while getting it back home. ● South African tugboat *J.E. Eaglesham*. It's very difficult to find models of local ships and boats. ● A chair from the ill-fated *Thermopylae*, which ran aground off Green Point in 1899. ● Travel postcards are another one of Gerald's passions. This one from 1908, is a souvenir from the *Edinburgh Castle*.

TITANIC: THE ARTIFACT EXHIBITION

Authentic artefacts reveal the compelling human stories behind this legendary vessel. This exhibition is open from 09h00 – 18h00 at the Zone Rosebank, Jo'burg, until 8 November 2015 and at the V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, from 27 November 2015 – March 2016. Visit titanicexpo.co.za

SOURCES **Kalk Bay Antiques Centre** 021 788 8882 **South African Naval Museum** 021 787 4686 **Ship Society of South Africa** Gerald Flack 084 225 2021

Treasure chest

What are your collectables worth?



These books Modern Magic *and* More Magic *by Professor Hoffmann from the early 1900s were owned by my great-uncle, Robert Harbin, the famous magic inventor and the first magician on TV. Can you tell me if they have any value?*
Margaret Reynolds, via e-mail

We asked Paul Mills, owner of online Antiquarian Auctions to give us an assessment. "*Modern Magic* was first issued in 1876 and *More Magic* in 1890," he says. "Both of these are later editions and date from the 1930s. Professor Hoffmann (a pseudonym for Angelo Lewis, 1839–1919) was influential in popularising conjuring and magic. A lawyer, he used the pseudonym fearing that his professional prospects would be compromised if it became known that he possessed such an intimate knowledge of the arts of deception. *Modern Magic* remains a cornerstone of the conjurer's art.

"Your great-uncle, Robert Harbin, the well-known magician and author, was the first illusionist to appear on the newly launched BBC TV service in 1937. His television career continued almost until his death in London in 1978. If either of your books are signed by him, it would add to their value. Likewise if you have any papers, letters and photographs relating to him. The value of the two together is about R1 000 – R1 500."

EXPERT TIP: "WHEN COLLECTING BOOKS, LOOK OUT FOR THOSE SIGNED BY THE AUTHOR," SAYS PAUL MILLS

THANKS TO OUR SPECIALISTS:
Ingrid Aron Kalk Bay Antiques Centre 021 788 8882
Nick Howarth Antique & Bygones 031 303 8880
Paul Mills Antiquarian Auctions antiquarianauctions.com

FIND OF THE MONTH

I bought this wooden ink/letter holder in Parkhurst, Jo'burg, at one of those little antique shops about 12 years ago. It's 250 x 145mm wide and 60mm high. Can you shed some light on its history and tell me what it's worth?
Elmarie Coy, via e-mail



Nick Howarth of Antiques & Bygones in Durban says that this inkstand is Victorian. "The quality looks nice with brass mounts and cut glass inkwells and it has a drawer for nibs. The ebonised (black lacquer) finish is an indicator of the date. Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, died in 1861 and Victorian furniture was often ebonised to commemorate his death, so it will date from shortly after that. It appears to be in good condition. I'd estimate its value to be about R2 500 – R 5 000."

I'd love to know more about this mug that I inherited from my uncle. He was an avid art collector and bought paintings and fine art items from all over the world.
Bev Temlett, via e-mail



Ingrid Aron of Kalk Bay Antiques Centre says, "This Royal Doulton Series Ware mug is circa 1930. The vases, jugs and plates from this range are worth more. It isn't rare enough to be valuable and should retail for around R650. Others like the Dickens series are more collectable."

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Send in clear photographs of collectable items to Treasure Chest, *SA Garden and Home*, Box 3124, Parklands 2121. Due to the volume of mail we are unable to respond personally or return photographs. Send e-mail submissions to gardenhome@caxton.co.za. Pictures must be sent as separate attachments at a size between 1MB – 2MB. Only one submission per reader will be accepted. For guidelines on the best way to take your photos for Treasure Chest, visit our website gardenandhome.co.za

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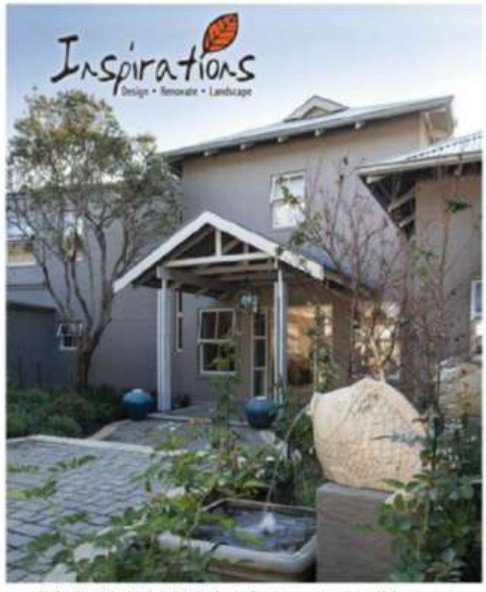
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Bookings: Mariana & Stella 083 306 8520 / 083 663 3025 Fax: 087 941 1695
Email: info@villajana.co.za

HIGH FIVE

Michelle Knapp, owner of perfume house Santa Maria Novella – Africa in Cape Town shares a few of her favourite things

Michelle Knapp began her career as a fashion designer, studied art and sculpture in Europe, then turned to auditing as a way to see the world. But after 12 years in corporate life, she became restless. "I wanted to challenge myself, change my career and get out of my comfort zone," she explains.

Coincidently an artist friend, Lyndi Sales, asked her to buy some fragrances for her from Santa Maria Novella, the oldest perfumery in the world, while she was in Florence. "Despite having visited this city many times, I'd never heard of the monastery and fell in love with the products, which are still handcrafted by the monks using the original recipes and organic perfume oils." A few months later, she brought Santa Maria Novella to South Africa.

Michelle's store in De Waterkant is housed in a 300-year-old building, which she stripped of layers of plaster to display original wooden lintels and quarry stone. "It's the perfect space to showcase a historic brand," says Michelle.

MICHELLE'S BEST…

SPACE is Hemelhuijs, the popular Cape Town restaurant (1). "I love beautifully presented food and decor. Hemelhuijs is the perfect mix of the two."



LOCAL DESIGNERS are Anatomy Design in Jo'burg. "I love their clean Scandinavian look like this Lorraine light (2), and the way they use sleek textures like wood, metal, marble and granite."

PIECE OF FURNITURE is a luxurious U-shaped couch from Sevens (3). "It wraps around the TV room in our home and is made of soft down feathers and is covered in linen." It's where Michelle, her husband Dirk, and their children congregate when they're at home.

SANTA MARIA NOVELLA SCENT is Cinquanta (4). "It's a sexy blend of florals and musk with notes of gardenia, orange blossom, green tea, amber and white musk."

ARTIST is her friend Lyndi Sales who's work is constantly evolving. "I love her laser cuts which cast patterned shadows on the wall. And I'm blown away by this installation called Satellite Telescope II (5)."



SOURCES **Anatomy Design** anatomydesign.co.za **Hemelhuijs** hemelhuijs.co.za **Lyndi Sales** lyndisales.com **Santa Maria Novella** 021 425 8181 **Sevens** sevens.co.za

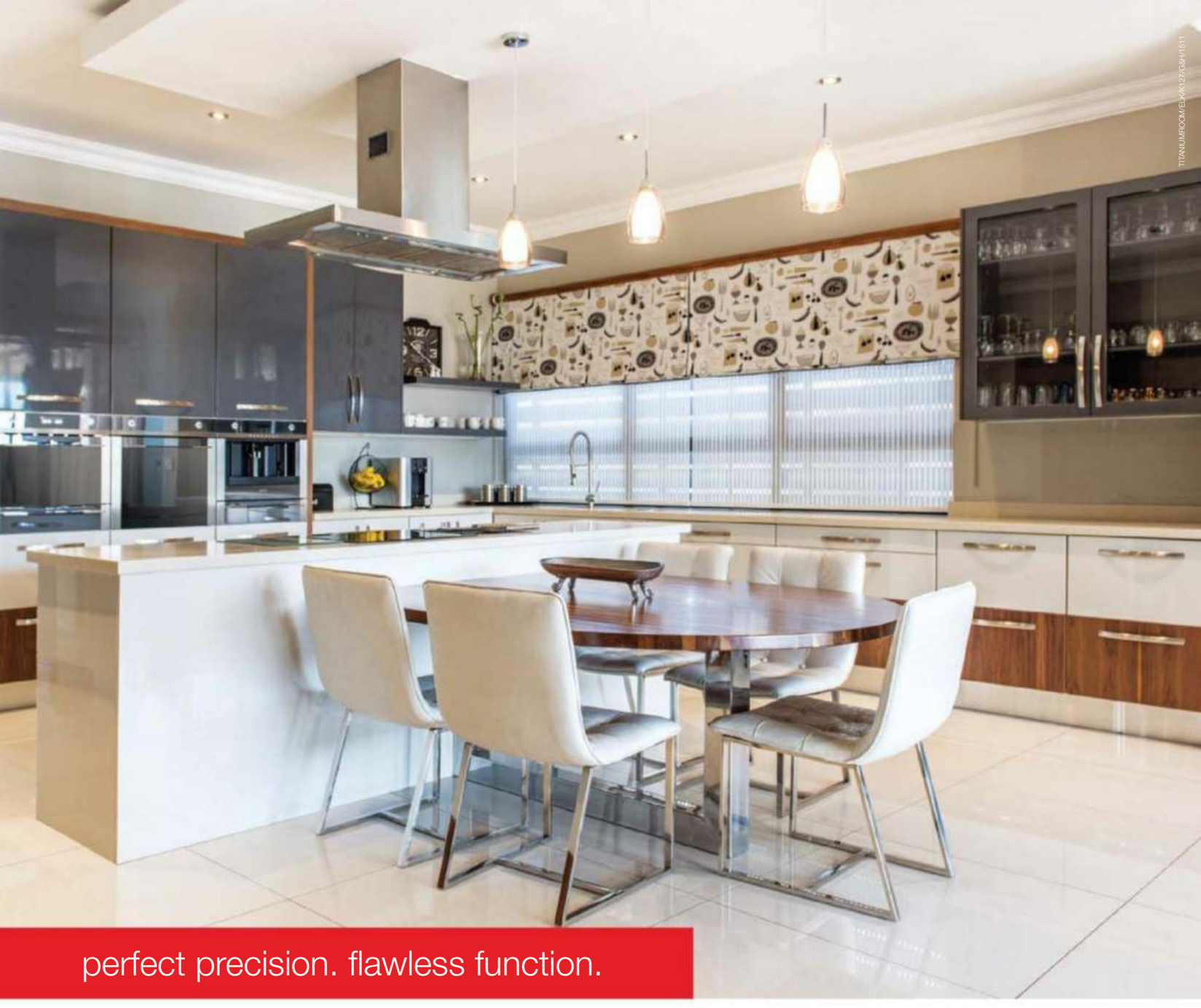
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